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Netanyahu to Arafat: Don't declare state

JON IMMANUEL and news agencies

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu warned during Friday's cabinet meeting that any unilateral declaration by the Palestinian Authority of the establishment of a state would be a violation of the Oslo Accords and a serious mistake.

The matter came up during a report by General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon, and in remarks by Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who wanted to get the cabinet's response to a reported statement by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat that he was considering going to the UN and declaring the creation of a Palestinian state.

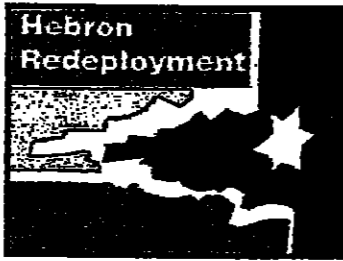
Arafat said in a radio interview broadcast in France on Friday that he would declare a Palestinian state in two years' time.

Asked by Europe-1 when a Palestinian state would exist, Arafat replied: "As soon as the interim period is over, we shall declare our Palestinian state. In two years' time."

A five-year interim period during which Israel and the Palestinians were to seek a final settlement began when Arafat signed a peace agreement with Yitzhak Rabin in Washington in September 1993.

Foreign Minister David Levy said Arafat's stated intention goes against the negotiations currently under way, and if the PA took such a step, the peace process would end.

He said his office has been acting for some time via its representatives and in other international frameworks to block such a move. He said he had discussed the matter with foreign ministers who had



visited Israel recently. The PA executive committee called the government's reaction to Arafat's Paris remarks a ploy to halt negotiations.

Dr. Zakariah Agha, a member of the PLO executive committee, said, "It is just a method which Israel is using to stall the peace negotiations."

A year ago Arafat's de facto deputy, Mahmoud Abbas, said the Palestinians would declare a Palestinian state in three years or at the commencement of the final settlement talks, which Palestinians hope will lead to a state.

Arafat has frequently stated that his intention is to establish a Palestinian state with Arab-populated areas of Jerusalem as its capital.

Netanyahu said at the cabinet meeting that Israel insists on guaranteeing its security needs in Hebron. Responding to criticism by some ministers of the agreement being negotiated, Netanyahu asked them to back the government's stand.

"The claims that the agreement being formulated is worse than its predecessor aren't true," he said. "It includes details and sections which strengthen the security of the Jewish community in Hebron and the holy places there."

Hijacked Ethiopian plane crashes with 8 Israelis aboard

BATSHEVA TSUR, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

EIGHT Israeli citizens are believed to have been on an Ethiopian airliner which was hijacked with 178 passengers and crew aboard, then ran out of fuel and crashed yesterday off the Comoro Islands in the Indian Ocean. Over 100 of the passengers are believed dead.

Four of the Israelis missing in the crash - Shraga Bar-Nissan of Karmei Yosef, Amram Ben-David of Netanya, Yehuda Soroka, and Gabi Levy - are employees of Israel Aircraft Industries' marketing division, returning from a trip to India. The other Israeli passengers are two businessmen and two students: Elazar Levkovitz, Yehzekel Raz, Ya'acov Bracha Bar-On of Tel Aviv, and Lior Fuchs of Ein Hefesov.

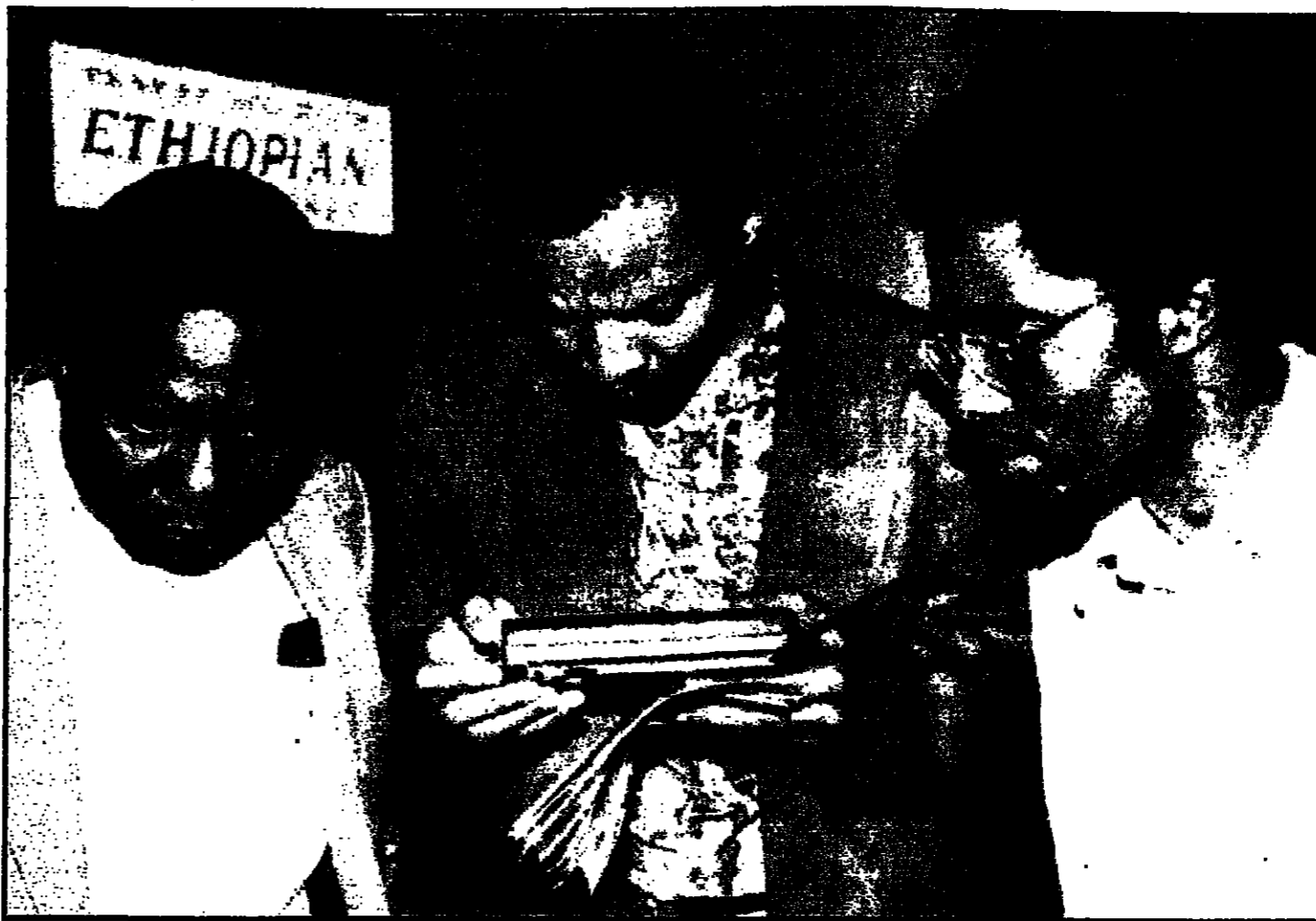
Israel Radio reported late last night that Fuchs was listed among the injured in a local hospital. By last night some 45 survivors had been found.

About 50 bodies have been recovered and witnesses said at least 60 more were still in the submerged fuselage strapped in their seats.

The plane had been hijacked by 11 Ethiopians in Addis Ababa, according to Israel Radio, which monitored conversations between the plane's crew and air traffic controllers in Addis Ababa.

The hijackers demanded to be flown to Australia, Israel Radio monitor Mickey Gourdiss said. The plane was en route to the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius to refuel when it crashed, Gourdiss said.

Abebe Damessa, manager of flight control for Ethiopian Airlines in Addis Ababa, said rescuers were hampered by impending darkness and rough seas.



Three passengers at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport listen yesterday to news of hijacked Ethiopian Airlines flight 961, which crashed off the Comoro Islands after running out of fuel. Aboard were 178 passengers and crew.

Forty-seven aboard the Boeing 767 were foreigners from some 21 countries, most of them from Europe, sources close to the airline said.

Ethiopia's president in a message on state television expressed shock and offered condolences to the families of the passengers and

crew who died when the plane crashed into the sea after apparently running out of fuel.

He said the accident was "the result of criminal activities by terrorists whose identity and nationality has not yet been established."

Late last night, a task force headed by Foreign Ministry

Deputy Director-General Zvi Mazel was due to leave for the site, ministry spokesman Danny Sheck said. The team consists of IDF medical personnel, specially trained rescue personnel, and members of the IDF Chaplaincy Corps, as well as a representative of the IAI. They were due to reach

Addis Ababa in the early morning but it was not clear whether they would be able to land near the site of the crash.

In Jerusalem, Foreign Ministry officials had convened in the afternoon shortly after noon when it became clear that Israeli

Syria accuses Israel of warmongering with Golan expansion plans

DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

SYRIA'S official newspapers accused Israel yesterday of pushing the region to war by taking the first step toward building 900 new housing units on the Golan Heights.

Media reports in Israel over the weekend stated that the Israel Lands Administration, acting at the request of Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, has begun drawing up plans for three settlements on the Golan that would have a total of 900 homes. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu approved the project, newspapers said, quoting government officials.

The officials said the plan would add a total of 2,500 homes on the golan by the year 2000, they said.

In an apparent attempt to avoid criticism, the government will define the new construction sites as extensions of existing settlements, rather than as new settlements, despite their geographical distance from built-up areas.

They are to be built on the western slopes of the Golan Heights. However, David Bar-Illan, a top aide to Netanyahu, denied the report.

The Syrian newspapers said the move showed that Netanyahu did not want to make peace with Syria and called for world pressure on Israel to stop its settlement activities.

"Israel's moves to build more settlements and to bring thousands of Israelis to the Golan show that Israel, under Netanyahu and the extremist rabbis and generals, is deliberately trying to escalate tension in the region," the *Tishreen* daily said.

"Netanyahu's government does not only want to undermine the peace process but also to detonate the situation in the region and return it once again to the cycle of wars and disasters."

The *Al-Thawra* daily said the settlement moves were hindering efforts by the US and other inter-

national parties to revive the peace process.

"The dangerous Jewish settlement program is a message from Netanyahu's government to Arabs and the world that Israel rejects peace and the peace efforts," it said.

The Golan Residents Committee yesterday praised the government over its reported intention to build the three new settlements, while Peace Now condemned the move. "We call on the government to implement its intentions forthwith," said residents committee spokesman Uri Heitner.

"The state has to demonstrate its sovereignty over the Golan by development - the establishment of new communities and the strengthening of existing ones," said Heitner. "Increased development of communities on the Golan will end Syria's dreams of expansion and will bring it to acknowledge the irrevocable reality of our sovereignty over the Golan - an acknowledgment which is a paramount condition for real peace," said Heitner.

The proposed plans, however, were decry by Peace Now which called on Netanyahu to deny the reports of new settlements.

"The political situation is already tense and very fluid and the announcement of any such plans, in these conditions, is undesirable and superfluous," said Arnon.

The organization called on Netanyahu and the government to concentrate all efforts on "preventing a war instead of playing with fires that might ignite it."

"The urgent requirement now is to return to the negotiating table as soon as possible," said Arnon. Peace Now called on the government to base its policies on those of late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin that the "depth of peace will equal the depth of withdrawal."

Swiss may dump Holocaust claims in WJC's lap

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

THE World Jewish Congress soon may find itself in the same sorry position as the Swiss banks - turning down Holocaust survivors and heirs who claim to have assets locked in the banks.

Last week, Greville Janner, a British MP who also is an official of the WJC, suggested a "Holocaust fund." The banks are considering Janner's suggestion, but with a stipulation that the Jewish community contend with individual claims for assets in Swiss banks, according to Swiss and American sources. That, in effect, would relieve the banks of their growing public relations problem by dumping it in the lap of the WJC.

Claimants publicly have related heartfelt stories about their families' frantic efforts to protect their assets during World War II by depositing them in Swiss banks. But they often have no more proof of the assets than saying, as did Lewis Salton at a congressional hearing last month, "My father very wisely moved almost all of his money to Switzerland for safe-keeping."

The Swiss banks, vilified for being insensitive when Jews tried to recover assets, have protested that they cannot satisfy claims when the heirs cannot produce evidence of the accounts. The

proposed stipulation would relieve the Swiss banks of the individual claims by insisting that a Jewish organization approve or reject them.

"The World Jewish Congress will see that it is not so easy to give these people money," said one Swiss source.

It is a point the WJC appeared to reluctantly acknowledge when Elan Steinberg, executive director of the WJC, said, "Individual claims have to be fulfilled to the extent that they can be authenticated."

When asked how the Jewish efforts to handle claims would differ from those of the Swiss, he said: "The difference is that the Swiss banks deliberately sought to stonewall for 50 years." The Swiss should demonstrate their good faith by formulating a plan for immediate "moral and material restitution," Steinberg said, adding that this would be "an interim gesture" that should not prejudice the outcome of the auditing of Swiss bank accounts. That audit is just now getting under way.

"If they do that tomorrow, then I'd put this in front of the WJRO, the survivors' groups, and the Jewish Agency, and the government of Israel," Steinberg said Thursday in New York.

Shahal: Police report shows PM met with alleged Russian gangster

MICHAL YUDELMAN

LABOR MK Moshe Shahal said yesterday that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu met the controversial businessman Gregory Lushansky, believed to be one of the heads of the so-called Russian mafia, in the summer of 1995.

Shahal, the former internal security minister, who based his statement on an intelligence report from June 1995, said that Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani was not telling the truth when he denied that such a meeting took place.

The meeting, Shahal said, was arranged by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who had ties with Lushansky. Both Netanyahu's and Sharansky's spokesmen denied such a meeting took place. Netanyahu's media spokesman Shai Bazak said the matter had been checked again by the police this week.

"Repeatedly it turns out that MK Shahal's fabrications are incorrect, and this proves the chronic lack of credibility from which he suffers," Bazak said yesterday.

Sharansky's spokesman Roman Polonsky said Sharansky had met with Lushansky several times, but not with Netanyahu present, and

that Sharansky had not set up any meeting between them. He also denied Lushansky contributed any money to Yisrael Ba'aliya.

Israel Radio said yesterday that according to the police, Sharansky had arranged such a meeting, but there is no proof that it actually took place. Intelligence sources assume the meeting of the three men took place either in the Knesset or in Netanyahu's home, the radio said.

In an interview on Channel 1's *Game of the Week*, Shahal said the intelligence report notes that Lushansky is interested in penetrating the Israeli political system by contributing funds - in the millions of dollars according to intelligence estimates - to political figures in Israel, Shahal said.

Lushansky's name does not appear in the list of 33 alleged Russian mafia leaders compiled by the police and passed on to the Interior Ministry.

Shahal said that intelligence agencies in the West and eastern Europe warned Israel of Lushansky's attempts to penetrate

Israel's political system, following such attempts in Russia in connection with Yeltsin's campaign.

Lushansky was a senior KGB agent in the 1970s, and employs at least one person who was in a senior position in Soviet intelligence. He owns a company called Nordex, which deals with almost all commercial fields, including arms.

Shahal said the American intelligence agencies are keenly interested in Lushansky due to his reported connections with illegal organizations, and meetings he attended.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid is demanding Kahalani clarify whether or not Netanyahu met Lushansky. Sarid referred Kahalani to a top secret document in the police intelligence unit's investigations branch, dated June 18, 1995, in which Sarid said the answer could be found.

Meanwhile, Likud Knesset faction chairman MK Michael Eitan plans to ask the Knesset's Ethics Committee to investigate Shahal's charges and take action against him if they prove unfounded.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

O.J.: I was a battered husband

SANTA MONICA (Reuter) - He described himself as a battered husband. He accused others of lying about him. And once again he emphatically declared his innocence.

O.J. Simpson never testified at his murder trial, but he did his best to make up for it on Friday in his first grueling day on the witness stand in his civil trial. Full story, Page 4

Now cellphones can make dunces of them all

MICHAL YUDELMAN

"Every plumber has a cellular phone these days - there's no reason why teachers shouldn't."

Teachers union chairman Shosh Oren told *Ma'ariv* yesterday, in a comment for which a school pupil should be made to write out 100 times "I will not utter non sequiturs."

Yes, Ms. Oren, every Israeli, from taxi driver to businessman, housewife to messenger boy, totes the little black rectangle glued fast to favorite ear, while they wave

arms, plow unheeding through traffic, and scream into it at the tops of their voices with no regard for the inconvenience or discomfort of anyone else.

At last trendy teachers can look as hip, cool - and boorish - as any of their pupils, most of whom already consider the bleeping little monsters as essential items of trend-ware as the latest Nike creation.

"Listen up kiddos - in this morning's lesson I will demonstrate how to look like a professional moron and irritate the max-

imum number of people in one cafe with one cellphone."

Telephone's deputy marketing director Benny Einhorn said proudly his company has an edge over Cellocom in spreading this affliction, because it covers West Bank teachers as well.

Where are all those stickers proclaiming "No talking on cellphones here," which the Tel Aviv Municipality supposedly started issuing last week? They must remove them immediately to the school system, before the nation is irreparably damaged.



American Outlook

The American Outlook section does not appear in today's paper due to technical reasons.

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Tal: State not yet ready for constitutional court

A CONSTITUTIONAL court that reflects the political balance of the country might be a good idea someday, but the country is not ready for it yet, Supreme Court Justice Zvi Tal said in the most recent issue of *Haishka*, the Bar Association Journal.

"Constitutional issues revolve around values," the court's only religious justice told interviewer Gideon Alon in his first published interview. "You have to see if a certain law accords with Israel's values as a Jewish and democratic state... Values are a matter of belief and opinion. Therefore, the judges' opinions about values are no better than those of anyone else. On the contrary: Who determines values? Society - which is reflected in the parliament."

In most of Europe, he added, constitutional courts do reflect the political balance of forces in society.

"However, I am not sure our society is ready to set up a constitutional court which could weigh matters on their merits rather than acting out of political considerations," he continued. "Given the state of our society, I would rather the Supreme Court - which has

EVELYN GORDON

proven itself as a defender of civil and individual rights against strong forces - continue to protect civil rights. But a time could come when it will be proper to set up a separate constitutional court."

"[However], I would very much like our Supreme Court to be more attentive to Jewish values," he added, noting that national values are taken seriously in many European courts. "At every juncture in which the court has had to decide between civil or individual rights and Jewish values, until now Jewish values have lost. This is something that shouldn't happen in a Jewish state... When it was written in the Declaration of Independence that Israel should be a Jewish and democratic state, the intent was not that Judaism should take second place and democracy should be in first place, but that these two values should be of equal importance."

Tal said there was room for "affirmative action" in the appointment of judges, meaning that if two people had otherwise equal qualifications, the one with a knowledge of Jewish law should

be preferred. However, he stressed, if the non-religious candidate were superior in other ways, then he should be preferred.

Tal said the while both sides are to blame for the deepening religious-secular split, widespread ignorance of Jewish sources and tradition is a major factor, as it creates a worrying combination of "ignorance and fanaticism."

However, he rejected the suggestion that Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef was guilty of incitement when he said Israel's courts were worse than those of the non-Jews. According to Jewish law, he explained, non-Jews and Jews must both have courts, but the latter are supposed to operate according to Jewish law. From the perspective of Jewish law, therefore, Israel's courts are worse than those of the non-Jews in the sense that they are not using the laws they are supposed to be using.

With respect to the occasional conflict between civil rights and security needs, Tal said security needs must take precedence. Human life is the basis for all law and morality, he said, and therefore protecting human life must take precedence over all other moral issues.



Palestinians pass the coffins of two 13-year-old Anzav village boys, who were killed by a land mine explosion near Jenin on Thursday afternoon. During the funeral Friday, Palestinian villagers accused Israel of being behind the explosion. (Reuters)

PA, PLO decide on confrontation plan against settlement expansion

A JOINT meeting of the PLO executive committee and the Palestinian Authority cabinet decided Friday night on a four-pronged confrontation with Israel over the expansion of settlements, as the Hebron deadlock exposed new points of confrontation. The decision called for reclaiming land, opening

new roads to the land, supporting farmers politically and financially, and "popular confrontation" every time Israeli bulldozers appear on Palestinian land, a statement by the PA cabinet secretary said.

The decision followed a press conference Thursday in which Information Minister Yasser

JON IMMANUEL

Abed-Rabbo warned of "total confrontation" over settlements and government policy.

The PA maintains that all settlement expansion is illegal and against the Oslo Accords, while Israel

maintains it is only permitting natural expansion, which is legal. The PA has been particularly concerned by the Defense Minister's authorization of 1,900 new units in Erasmuel, which would double its size, and the expansion of Kiryat Sefer, which led to a protest by neighboring villages two weeks

ago in which one Palestinian was shot dead. Emanuel is more than 25km from the Green Line and Kiryat Sefer is close to the Green Line, but both are Israeli, which Palestinians understand as the most hard-line religious opposition to territorial compromise.

Our beloved mother and grandmother
HILDA HOPE
has died.
Dalya and Ada Bilu
Rony and Tom Hope
She bequeathed her body to science.

We wish to thank all our friends who offered their condolences during our bereavement on the death of our father
Dr. JOSE MIRELMAN
Sara Mirelman
Ruth Gorall
Jody and Eli Caspi
David and Ahuva Mirelman
Arel and Irit Mirelman
Grandchildren and great-grandchildren

The Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yaffo Tel Aviv Foundation
We deeply mourn the passing of
LEONARD SCHACH
a cherished friend of Tel Aviv-Yaffo and a pillar of strength in the cultural scene of our city.
Ronit Milo Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yaffo
Chairman of the Tel Aviv Foundation
David Aitman Director-general of the Tel Aviv Foundation

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved
LEONARD SCHACH
The funeral will be held today, Sunday, November 24, 1996 at 11 a.m., at Hayarkon Cemetery (on the Trans-Shomron Highway).
A bus will leave at 10 a.m. from the Habima Theatre, Sderot Tarsat, Tel Aviv.
Sydney and Fiorette Schach, Cape Town
Stephen and Sharon Schach and family, Nashville
Liane and Desmond Froneman and family, Sydney

Hassan criticizes Israeli construction in territories

JORDAN'S Crown Prince Hassan said in media remarks over the past two days that Israel's expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land is unacceptable and that Israel has an "obsessive inflexibility" about security. The prince said his country's 1994 peace treaty with Israel had suffered due to the violence that has dogged Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

"Today when you hear [of] settlements... clearly this is something that has not been accepted even in the peace treaty," the prince told Channel 2 in an interview taped in Jordan earlier in the week.

"We do not accept any action that changes the status quo in the occupied territory," he said. In an interview published Friday in *Ha'aretz*, Hassan said Israel's obsession with security is misguided and responsible for stalling negotiations toward an IDF rede-

Haredim demonstrate on Rehov Bar-Ilan

HUNDREDS of haredim demonstrated on Rehov Bar-Ilan in Jerusalem yesterday, demanding it be closed to traffic on Shabbat. Near Rehov Aminadav, several dozen haredim threw stones at police. One policeman was lightly injured and one demonstrator was arrested, police said. *lim*

News agencies

ployment in Hebron. "Security is an overall term... how has it been reduced and transformed to a military term? The obsessive inflexibility over security is impossible to understand. After all, when there is no trust or dialogue, what value can security agreements have?"

Hassan said that only real peace would prevent violence in Hebron, home to both Jewish and Palestinian extremists. "Inside Hebron the few dozen Jewish settlers and their families are liable to create an explosion unless something deeper - much beyond soldiers and police - is created so that they will be able to run their lives in conjunction with their surroundings," Hassan told *Ha'aretz*.

Asked in the television interview if his expectations of the peace treaty had been met, the

prince expressed reservations. "I would be more satisfied if we were conducting this interview in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, but clearly there have been acts of violence," he said, citing violence against both Israelis and Arabs in the last year.

Hassan said the opening of an exit to the Western Wall Tunnel in Jerusalem in September, which sparked days of clashes in which 60 Palestinians and 15 Israelis were killed, had not helped the situation.

"It is this atmosphere, effectively, I think that has taken a lot out of the peace treaty, out of the spirit to move forward. But on the other hand I'm a realist and I think that there are so many possibilities."

The prince cited President Ezer Weizman's recent visit to Jordan, and said: "We went down to the Dead Sea Works; we saw good things being done in bad times."

Barak rejects Sneh's proposal to separate primaries and convention

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR Party leader Shimon Peres said on Friday that he does not want to topple the government but to change its policy. He said he had ample experience and political ability "which I want to contribute and do not intend to take to my grave with me."

Speaking at the Law and Business Forum of the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya Peres said "I don't want a national unity government, I want a way which will lead to peace. If the peace process is to be, then with all modesty I believe I am one of the most experienced and able statesmen around and I can contribute to it."

Peres called on uniting the forces in the nation "not for unity's sake but to save the peace process, save the economy and save the children."

Meanwhile, MK Ehud Barak, Labor's favored leadership candidate, yesterday rejected the proposal of MK Ephraim Sneh, who is also running for party leadership, to separate the primaries

from the party convention. Barak insists on holding the two events together next summer, while his opponents in the party including MKs Haim Ramon, Yossi Beilin and Uzi Baran, who prefer Labor leader Shimon Peres to stay at the helm for the next two or three years, are pushing to hold the convention in the spring, three months before the leadership showdown.

MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, of Barak's camp, said all the demands to postpone the leadership showdown began as soon as Ramon realized that his situation in the party was not good and that Barak was in the lead.

Ramon, who has not yet decided whether to run for Labor leadership, yesterday admitted that at present Barak is the leading candidate with the best chances of winning. Speaking on Channel 1, Ramon said "I believe only an attractive leading team with a clear message can win the elections, and there is no doubt that Barak will be a central component of this team."

(Continued from Page 1) citizens were aboard the plane.

Contacts were established with Israel's ambassador to Addis Ababa, Avi Granot, as well as friendly governments with ties to the government of the Comoro Islands, which does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

The ministry announced it would be in contact with the families throughout the night to update them.

The army said the IDF could likely help in areas of search and rescue, but did not limit the aid to this field only.

In the past, the IDF has sent aid to foreign countries. This includes an army field hospital to Zaire to help Rwandan refugees, rescue teams with dogs to Argentina to help locate survivors from the bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, and aid

to earthquake victims in Armenia and Mexico.

State-run radio on the Comoros - a three-island chain off east Africa - said the plane went down about midday at Mitsambiri Beach on the north side of the main island of Grande Comore, resident Donies Ponnage told The Associated Press by telephone.

The radio report called for all hospitals to prepare to treat the injured, Ponnage said.

There were conflicting reports about whether the Ethiopian Airlines plane hit land or water. While state radio said the airliner hit the beach, local radio reporter Ibrahim Ahmed told Israel Radio the plane plunged into the water off Grande Comore, splitting into at least two parts.

The plane may have tried to

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nine hurt in weekend accidents

Nine people were injured, three of them seriously, in road accidents over the weekend.

Last night a 12-year-old boy was struck by a hit-and-run driver while crossing Allenby Street in Tel Aviv. He was taken in serious condition to Ichilov Hospital with a head injury. Police are seeking witnesses to the accident, who should call 03-5124613.

Yesterday afternoon, two cars collided near Moshav Gan Ner, injuring five people. They were taken to Ha'emek Hospital in Afula for treatment.

Friday evening, three cars collided close to Poriya Hospital near Tiberias, injuring two people seriously and one moderately. *lim*

Cabinet approves aid to Rwandan refugees

The cabinet decided in its Friday meeting to grant humanitarian assistance to the Rwandan refugees. Foreign Minister David Levy reported on the steps that have already been taken by the ministry and the preparations being made for transferring the aid.

The government decided to dispatch 60 tons of supplies next week on two airplanes, in accordance with the needs of the Rwandan government. The government also approved the continuation of assistance via the Foreign Ministry in the fields of village construction and medicine. *lim*

Rubinstein: End Habad visits to army bases

Meretz MK Amnon Rubinstein said Friday he would petition the High Court of Justice if Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai does not cancel the permission granted to the Habad movement to make visits to IDF bases.

"Mordechai's decision, which was made against the wishes of the IDF, is illegal, and discriminates among groups, and harms Druse, Beduin and Circassians serving in the IDF," Rubinstein said in a statement.

"Habad is a political movement which actively participated in the recent elections and continues to be active in issues on which the Israeli public is divided," he said. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Hijacker Khaled gives kidney to ill brother

Palestinian hijacker Leila Khaled has donated one of her kidneys to save her ill brother, Khaled, her husband said yesterday.

An official at the hospital where the operation was carried out said the transplant took place on Wednesday. Khaled's husband, Fayed Rashid, said in a statement it was a success and brother and sister were recuperating.

Khaled, who is in her early 50s, commandeered a TWA airliner in 1969. A member of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, she was allowed by Israel to enter Palestinian-ruled areas in April for a meeting of the Palestine National Congress. *Reuter*

Hate mailer to be dismissed from IDF

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has told Meretz leader Yossi Sarid that Maj. Daniel Bibas will shortly appear before an IDF panel with the aim of discharging him from the military.

Sarid has demanded Bibas's discharge because of hate mail he sent Yitzhak Rabin and letters of encouragement he sent to the family of Baruch Goldstein.

A court martial last month found Bibas, 36, of the Ordnance Corps, guilty of four charges of sending the letters and demoted him to lieutenant. He also told soldiers under his command that Rabin was a traitor and murderer and that the government should be brought down at any price. *Liat Collins*

Bentsur leaves for terror talks

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur leaves today for the United States to head a delegation for discussions on the war on terrorism. One of the topics to be discussed is pinpointing the sources of terror funding.

The delegation will include the new head of the special anti-terror staff, Maj.-Gen. Meir Dagan, representatives of the Mossad, General Security Service, and senior Foreign Ministry officials. *lim*

HIJACKED

airport said the hijacking occurred before the plane entered Kenyan air space.

Mamoune Chakira, spokesman for Hayata International Airport in the Comoros, said airport control was told about the hijacked plane by Ethiopian officials. "But we made no air traffic control contact with the plane," Chakira said.

The control tower at Nairobi's

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سكنا من اجل

Reports of fresh fighting in Zaire

BUKAVU, Zaire (Reuters) - Zairian rebels appointed a new governor for the Kivu region of Zaire to signal their hold on the region but local people and Rwandan refugees coming out of the forest yesterday reported fresh fighting in the area.

In Geneva, Western aid chiefs, donors and Rwandan government officials met to coordinate relief efforts for more than half a million Rwandan Hutu refugees who have poured back home from eastern Zaire over the past week after two years in exile.

A meeting of military commanders to discuss an armed intervention force to help bring aid to Rwandan and Burundian refugees in Zaire was also taking place in Stuttgart, extended from Friday.

A Reuters correspondent said over 2,100 refugees had made their way to Mugunga camp, near Goma, where they were being processed by aid workers.

"We hid in the forest for three weeks and have had a seven-day walk from the forest, during which we were being attacked by the Mai Mai," said Nathan Mbituye, who said he would be returning to Rwanda.

The Mai Mai is a local Zairian militia drawn from indigenous tribes hostile to ethnic Rwandans, Hutus and Tutsi. The name means water - the Mai Mai believes bullets fired at them turn to water.

Another group of refugees comprising two women and six children, one with Downs Syndrome, said they had lost their brothers and husbands in an attack by men armed with bows and arrows and sticks.

Other refugees said there were "many, many" refugees still in the forest but they could give no clear idea of numbers.

The new group had fled into the forest in October to avoid fighting around the refugee camps, pitting mainly Tutsi rebels against the Zairian army and Rwandan Hutu extremists, including the Interahamwe militia.

Residents in Sake, just west of Goma, reported renewed heavy



Rwandan Hutu refugees from the Katale camp, who walked for 22 days after fleeing fighting in eastern Zaire, arrive at the border town of Gisenyi yesterday.

fighting in and around the town overnight, and said there were now rebel roadblocks on the roads into the town.

"There was very heavy firing last night," Denis Nduziye, from a hamlet outside Sake, said. "The rebels told us it was the Interahamwe who had come down from the Masisi."

The half million refugees decid-

ed to return home when the Hutu militiamen and troops of the former Rwandan army were forced to flee the camps.

However, aid workers said that left up to 700,000 more refugees unaccounted for in eastern Zaire. Rebel leader Laurent Kabila on Friday appointed a new governor for the area seized by rebels last month. Kabila told a news confer-

ence in Bukavu on Friday that the governor would rule the whole region of Kivu, running alongside Lake Kivu.

The new governor, Cubaka Anatole Bishukwabo, is a member of the local Bashi tribe and his deputy is a Banyamulenge, the ethnic Tutsis who launched the rebellion, rebel sources said in Nairobi.

In Goma itself, doctors reported a cholera epidemic, with 15 deaths in the past week.

"We have had 114 confirmed cases of cholera since the refugees left a week ago," said Jo Lusi, a doctor at the Virunga hospital in the slums of northern Goma. "For us an epidemic would be 40, but this is nearly three times that."

Yeltsin orders last troops out of Chechnya

SERGEI SHARGORODSKY
MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin ordered the two remaining Russian brigades out of Chechnya yesterday, paving the way for an agreement signed later in the day by his government and the Chechen separatists.

"This decree is a new confirmation of the president's view that there is no military way of solving the Chechen problem," said Yeltsin's spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembsky.

Under a peace accord reached between the two sides in August, all Russian troops were to be pulled out of Chechnya by the end of the year. But until now, Russian officials have insisted that the two brigades were permanently based in the separatist republic and would remain there.

Separatist leaders have demanded that the brigades be withdrawn, saying their presence would obstruct plans to hold parliamentary and presidential elections in Chechnya on January 27.

Yeltsin's decree cleared the way for a new agreement signed yesterday outside Moscow by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's office and Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen coalition government head.

"We saw the president's decree today and took it with a feeling of deep satisfaction," Maskhadov said, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Russian national security chief

Ivan Rybkin met on Friday with Chechen separatist leaders to fine-tune the wording of the accord, spelling out basic principles of relations between Moscow and the separatist republic until its new president and parliament are elected.

The four-point document, carried by the Interfax news agency, says the sides will conclude agreements on unspecified "special economic relations."

A key provision says accords on oil production, refining and transporting, which are a matter of Moscow's primary interest, will be concluded by December 1, and the Chechen side will "guarantee the safety of pipelines" and various oil installations.

For now, the sides guarantee free movement of people and goods through Chechnya, pledge to restore all railroad and car traffic by December 1, work to improve the lives of much-suffering civilians, pay war compensation, and not to undertake any actions that could endanger mutual security.

The troops will be out of Chechnya before the January 27 vote, Yastrzhembsky said.

The war in Chechnya began in December 1994, when Yeltsin sent in troops to put down the mostly Muslim region's self-declared independence. Estimates of those killed in the war range from 18,000 to as high as 100,000, most of them civilians. (AP)

Miss Greece crowned Miss World amid rock-throwing protests

BANGALORE, India (AP) - Miss Greece, Irene Skliva, was crowned Miss World 1996 yesterday in a glittering ceremony that contrasted sharply with clashes earlier in the day between rock-throwing anti-pagant protesters and police firing tear gas and rubber bullets.

Skliva, an 18-year-old model clad in a white and silver gown, raised her hands to her face in surprise upon hearing herself proclaimed the winner. After receiving a silver tiara from 1995 winner Jacqueline Aguilera Marcano of Venezuela, she waved and blew kisses to the crowd.

Miss Colombia, Carolina Arango, was the first runner-up, while Miss Brazil Amuka Prado, placed third.

Earlier yesterday, about 1,000 demonstrators shouting "Go home Miss World" and denouncing beauty contests as demeaning to women had tried to block roads leading to the Bangalore cricket stadium where the finals were held.

Police swung bamboo canes and fired rubber bullets and tear gas into the rock-throwing crowds, and

at least 50 people were injured in the clashes. Protesters later demanded a judicial investigation into police tactics.

Yesterday's last-ditch effort to stop the pageant - held for the first time in India - followed weeks of protests. Eric Morley, the one-time public relations man who founded the Miss World pageant 46 years ago, said he had never before faced such fervent opposition.

The protesters say the pageant treats women as objects and benefits only plastic surgeons and cosmetics manufacturers; organizers say it will boost tourism and encourage foreign investment in India.

A dozen groups ranging from right-wing political parties to communists had marched, filed court challenges, blocked roads and burned effigies. Last week, a student in a nearby town set himself alight and committed suicide, shouting slogans against the pageant.

Police arrested 1,650 people Friday and yesterday, holding many of them under laws allowing people suspected of planning unrest to be detained.

Clan fighting kills at least 17 in Somali capital

MOGADISHU (Reuters) - At least 17 civilians were killed in south Mogadishu in a vicious outbreak of militia fighting on Friday night and early yesterday, witnesses said.

It was the heaviest toll for more than three weeks in the clashes between clan militias loyal to faction leaders Ali Hassan Osman Atto and his rival Hussein Aidede.

Most of the fighting was around the disused milk factory and the Afgoye area in the divided south of the shantertown Somali capital.

Militiamen used 106mm recoilless guns, anti-aircraft missiles and 120mm and 81mm mortars.

Militia casualties were unknown but most of the 17 civilians were killed when stray artillery rounds slammed into their houses. A mortar bomb killed four people in a camp for the displaced.

Faction radio stations have warned people to evacuate south Mogadishu during the past two days as tension mounted.

The clashes have their genesis in the August 1 death from bullet wounds of self-styled president Mohammed Farah Aidede. Aidede's supporters blame Atto's men for the death and appointed his son Hussein to take over.

Belarusian crisis heightens as Russian-mediated deal collapses

MINSK, Belarus (AP) - Feeding fears of political collapse on the eve of a hotly debated referendum, Belarus' hard-line president and his parliamentary foes yesterday scrapped a Russian-brokered compromise agreement.

Voters in this former Soviet republic choose today whether, to support President Alexander Lukashenko's bid to expand his already vast authority.

His opposition in parliament resumed impeachment proceedings yesterday. Angry nationalists are threatening to boycott the referendum and stage major protests across this impoverished nation of 10.4 million on Russia's western border. Moscow yesterday played down the humiliating collapse of its mediation efforts, which Russian President Boris Yeltsin hailed a day before as a "big victory."

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and top legislators rushed to Minsk on Thursday, where they brokered a compromise accord between Lukashenko and Belarusian parliament speaker Semyon Sharetzky.

But after a bitter, insult-filled debate in parliament Friday, lawmakers refused to ratify it and Lukashenko stormed out.

"We're back to the previous plan," Lukashenko

declared in a televised address. Gennady Seleznyov, speaker of the lower house of Russia's parliament, phoned both Lukashenko and Sharetzky from Moscow Saturday to try and salvage the agreement.

"I'm concerned by the recent developments in Belarus but I don't think the situation has reached a dead end," he said. Yeltsin's forced hope that efforts to defuse the crisis "will be continued and brought to an end," spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said.

"The peak of the crisis is over, and there is confirmation of that. It does not mean, of course, that the crisis has been successfully solved," he added.

Under the pact, Lukashenko had agreed that the results of today's vote would be non-binding. In exchange, parliament was to halt the impeachment process.

After Friday's late-night parliament drama, Lukashenko declared the vote would be binding after all.

"I tried to find some kind of compromise ... But why did I bother?" he said. Once Lukashenko made clear he was ignoring the pact, Sharetzky announced that he was going ahead with the impeachment process. The Constitutional Court met yesterday in a special session to discuss how to proceed.

Gunmen kill three policemen in Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt (Reuters) - Gunmen thought to be Islamic militants shot dead three policemen and wounded six people in an attack on a police station in southern Egypt yesterday, security sources said.

The gunmen fired at the station in Deir Mawas, some 290 km south of Cairo, killing the three policemen and wounding three noncommissioned officers, a guard and two civil servants at the station, they said.

"Three gunmen reached the spot in a pickup (truck), wearing special forces uniforms," a witness said. "After the shooting, they fled in another car they stole in the area."

Police launched a man-hunt in fields, the sources said.

Sinn Fein: New IRA truce in sight

BELFAST (Reuters) - A senior official of the IRA's political wing said yesterday that the group might renew the truce they called off nine months ago.

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, held out the prospect of an Irish Republican Army cease-fire if British Prime Minister John Major accepted a formula tabled by peace broker John Hume, leader of the moderate nationalist SDLP.

Britain's supporters in Northern Ireland wanted London not to do deals with the republicans and a British spokesman said any new cease-fire must be "absolutely unequivocal."

McGuinness said Sinn Fein, which wants a guaranteed place in unconditional all-party talks, would try to get the IRA to reinstate a truce abandoned in February if Britain agreed to Hume's proposals.

Dozens hurt as Amtrak train derails in New Jersey

SECAUCUS, NJ (Reuters) - An Amtrak passenger train travelling from Washington to Boston derailed and plunged down an embankment into a muddy marsh yesterday, injuring at least 35 people, officials said.

Two of the injured were seriously hurt, an Amtrak spokeswoman said. At least 88 ticketed passengers and three crew members were on board when the derailment took place, near the Hackensack River draw bridge about three miles west of New York City, an Amtrak spokeswoman said.

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O.J. takes the stand, finally, and denies killings

SANTA MONICA (Reuters) - He described himself as a battered husband. He accused others of lying about him. And once again he emphatically declared his innocence.

O.J. Simpson never testified at his murder trial, but he did his best to make up for it on Friday in his first grueling day on the witness stand in his civil trial.

Under nearly five hours of scathing interrogation, the former football star opened a window on his stormy relationship with Nicole Brown Simpson and tried to explain away inconsistencies in his earlier statements about events surrounding the 1994 murders of his ex-wife and her friend.

And it's not over yet.

Simpson will be back on the stand tomorrow and Tuesday, when he is sure to face tough questioning about the infamous low-speed freeway chase, the mysterious cuts on his hand and the blood evidence linking him to the murders.

Friday's testimony brought few surprises, but it ended dramatically with a tense, rapid-fire exchange between Simpson and Daniel Petrocelli, the lead attorney for the victims' families who filed the wrongful-death lawsuit.

Testifying in a loud, clear voice, his face sometimes showing the



O.J. Simpson leaves the Santa Monica Courthouse Friday following his first day of testimony in the wrongful death civil suit filed by the survivors of Nicole Brown Smith and Ronald Goldman. Simpson flatly denied killing his ex-wife and her friend.

Bronco to go to Nicole's condo, didn't you?" Petrocelli asked in a calm voice.

"That's absolutely not true," Simpson said.

"And you confronted Nicole Brown Simpson and you killed her, didn't you?" Petrocelli continued.

"That is absolutely not true," Simpson replied forcefully, looking directly at the jury.

"And you killed Ronald Goldman, did you or did you not?" Petrocelli asked.

"That's absolutely not true," Simpson shot back.

He continued to repeat "absolutely not true" as Petrocelli outlined the rest of the plaintiffs' murder theory - that Simpson rushed back to his estate to meet a waiting airport limousine, dropped a bloody glove on a narrow walkway and left a trail of blood on his driveway.

During the entire exchange, jurors listened intently, sometimes scribbling furiously in their notebooks.

Simpson began his first full day of testimony denying he had ever beaten Nicole Brown Simpson but claiming that she struck him "numerous times" during their 17-year relationship.

He depicted her as the aggressor in a 1989 incident in which she ended up with a cut lip and a swollen eye and suggested she had worsened her injuries by "picking" at them. Nevertheless, Simpson was charged with spousal abuse and pleaded no contest, equivalent to an admission of guilt under California law.

While jurors looked at photos of a bruised, banded Nicole Brown Simpson, Simpson said his ex-wife lied when she wrote in her journals that he had beaten her. He suggested her friends and relatives had also made up stories of domestic abuse.

Instead, Simpson portrayed himself as the victim of an erratic and sometimes violent woman. He said that even after their 1992 divorce, she was the one who pursued him.

By contrast, attorneys for the families have contended that Simpson beat, stalked and terrorized his ex-wife, finally killing her in June 1994 when he could no longer control her.

Several legal analysts who attended Friday's session said the plaintiffs succeeded in damaging Simpson's credibility.

"Simpson was in a perpetual state of denial," said Laurie Levenson, a professor at the Loyola University Law School.

Former Scientology official gets 18 months in church member's suicide

LYON, France (AP) - A former Church of Scientology leader was convicted and sentenced to 18 months in prison on Friday in the 1988 suicide of a church member.

Jean-Jacques Mazier, the former head of the church in France's second-largest city, was also fined Fr 500,000, the Lyon court ruled. The prosecution had requested a three-year suspended sentence.

Thirteen other defendants were given suspended sentences for theft, complicity and abuse of confidence. Charges were dropped against 10 others.

Last month's trial centered on the March 1988 suicide of Patrice Vic, 31, who jumped from a window to his death. Prosecutors said he was under pressure from the church to take a Fr 30,000 "purification treatment," including daily sauna treatments and a diet low on sugar and high on vitamins.

Vic was subjected to "psychological torture," the court said in a ruling of more than 200 pages.

"The signs of psychological distress manifested by Patrick Vic should have led [Mazier] to treat his case with prudence and to take the necessary precautions," the court said.

Tempest in Toulon: Far-right mayor refuses to honor Jewish author

TOULON, France (AP) - By spiking plans to honor a Jewish author, the far-right mayor of this southern French city has turned a sleepy book fair into a political battleground.

Mayor Jean-Marie Le Chevallier of the extreme nationalist National Front hailed the "liberty of the book" at Friday's opening of the three-day fair, one of France's largest.

But he was quickly rebuked by the government's culture minister, among others, for refusing to honor Jewish writer Marek Halter as fair organizers had requested.

Le Chevallier, a close friend and confidant of Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, last week had dismissed as "inopportune" the plans to honor Halter.

He asked that the award instead be presented to former actress Brigitte Bardot for her new memoirs. Bardot turned down the offer, even though she is married to Bernard d'Ormale, another friend of Le Pen's.

National Front politicians repeatedly have been accused of racism and antisemitism in France, and the mayor's actions

triggered a fresh round of outrage.

"I was very troubled to be judged 'inopportune' at the Festival of Books," Halter said at a meeting Friday on the scandal in nearby Chateau Vaillon, attended by Culture Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy, several previous culture ministers and some top writers.

Numerous book fair participants pulled out of the fair, and a parallel book fair was quickly organized in the nearby village of La Garde for those who left Toulon.

Douste-Blazy, speaking Friday at a counter-meeting organized outside Toulon, called for a fight "without mercy, without respite, without compromise" against the Front.

The National Front is engaged in a "general offensive...against culture," he told French television Friday evening. "I think culture today is in political danger."

The incident was the first major public controversy to erupt in the Mediterranean port city since Le Chevallier won the mayoral election in 1995, one of three National Front candidates to win mayoral races last year.

Canada tries to speed up action against Nazis

AFTER almost half a century of inaction or ineffectiveness, Canada has started moving against suspected Nazi war criminals who found refuge there.

In the past decade, Canadian courts have ruled in favor of the few war-crimes suspects whose cases got that far. That prompted an outcry from the Jewish community and general society, forcing Ottawa to change its tactics and bolster its forces. The main soldiers in this battle are a special unit set up to investigate crimes against humanity and the country's first justice minister to make the task a priority.

Ottawa's poor record in prosecuting war-crimes suspects was just at the top of the pile of injustices it had heaped on the Jewish community, starting with the refusal to permit entry by Jews fleeing Nazism and then by Holocaust survivors' pleas for justice.

Then the government callously permitted - and even welcomed - the immigration of SS veterans and former collaborators who, in the hysteria of the Cold War, were considered assets in resisting infiltration by communist "refugees."

According to the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Canada, 3,000 war criminals arrived there mostly between 1946 and 1951; about half of them are estimated to be alive today. For decades, the government officially ignored their presence and steadfastly refused Jewish demands for action against them.

Two important events in 1987 marked a change in Ottawa's stance: it changed the Criminal Code to allow prosecution for war crimes and the 1992 deportation of Jacob Luitjens to Holland where he had been convicted in absentia for war crimes. All other criminal prosecutions and citizenship-revocation cases have failed, earning Canada one of the worst Nazi-conviction records in the Western world.

As a result, in recent years the legal system has come under more criticism than the government. "Too often proceedings become mired in legal technicalities to the degree that points of law become the focus rather than the guilt or innocence of the person charged with the most heinous crimes in history," says David Matas, a lawyer and vice-president of B'nai B'rith's League For Human Rights who has long been active on the issue.

Although sometimes disagreeing with the courts, senior Justice Department officials reject charges that the judiciary is callous. "The legal process is certainly moving slower than we expected," says assistant deputy attorney-general John Sims, who has been involved in unsuccessful attempts to deport suspected war criminals. "But the

rules of evidence as in a criminal court case.

In order to deport a suspected Nazi war criminal, the government has only to prove he lied about his past on his immigration application to get into Canada. That's usually easier than proving someone was a war criminal and murdered people.

In January 1995, the government announced it was planning to launch deportation proceedings against a dozen men suspected of Nazi war crimes. At the time, it said all 12 would be named within a year and a half. Today, almost two years later, only eight cases have been publicized, including two announced early this month against Vladimir Katriuk and Ladislav Kasan.

The cases of another three - Oberlander, Dueck and Tobias - are under appeal by the government following the decision to stay proceedings. Three other cases are continuing against Antanas Kenstavicius, Joseph Nemstla and Wasily Bogutin. Ottawa has also initiated deportation proceedings against an Australian citizen who came to Canada, Konrad Kales.

Despite difficulties in prosecuting war criminals, other countries have a much better record than Canada's.

"Canada has only to look to its southern neighbor to see how the country has overcome the obstacles to justice. The Office of Special Investigations of the U.S. Department of Justice has been stripping their US citizens of citizenship. It is estimated that 100,000 war criminals settled in the US since the war.

Under the US Criminal Code in 1987, it made it possible to apply to crimes committed during the war.

"The Nazi war criminals is not only important for the Jewish community but also for modern-day Canada," says Shalom Harshan, a senior Canadian Jewish Congress spokesman and assistant legal counsel. "We have always pointed out that if Ottawa didn't do something about the war criminals, the war criminals of today from Bosnia would feel that Canada is a good place to come. We'd be just rolling out the red carpet for them."

In recent years, several dozen modern-day war criminals have tried to settle in Canada only to be rebuffed by federal lawyers who intervened before the Immigration and Refugee Board to oppose granting them refugee status.

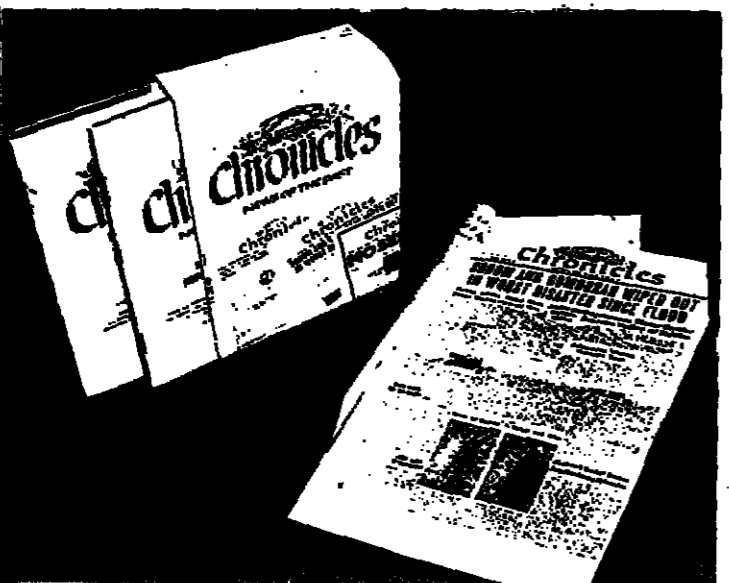
Last year, for example, the government moved to deport Leon Mugesera, a former Rwandan official who is alleged to have incited the massacres that claimed up to a million lives in the war-torn African nation.

"Despite Ottawa's improved attitude in recent years, it's still a pretty poor record," says Bernie Farber, national director of community relations at the CJC, who has long been active on the issue. "The fact that a democracy like Canada felt comfortable to allow these cold-blooded murderers to walk this land is a travesty the Jewish community will long remember."

No one, of course, watches the sad saga of Nazi war criminals in Canada with more interest, more emotion than Holocaust survivors. The co-chairman of the CJC's Holocaust Remembrance Committee, Nathan Leipziger, 66, and his father were sent to several concentration camps including Auschwitz where his mother and sister both perished.

"It makes your blood curdle with anger and frustration to know Nazi war criminals are living freely in Canada," says Leipziger. "You don't know where they are. They may be your neighbors, you may be doing business with them. We are the ones who have nightmares about what happened. Not them."

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New Air-Conditioning System at the Ben-Gurion Airport

The management of the Ben-Gurion Airport extends its apologies to the traveling public and their escorts for the temporary inconvenience liable to be caused by the installation of a new air-conditioning system in the terminal at the present time.

Due to the work involved in these changes, the present air-conditioning system will be temporarily disconnected until mid-January 1997, with the exception of the entrance and reception hall.

During the coming days mobile heating and cooling systems will be installed as needed, and the maximum effort will be made to minimize any inconvenience caused.

With apologies,
 The Management, Ben-Gurion Airport

Trauma-free tumor removal at Soroka

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

FINDING out that she has breast cancer is a woman's worst nightmare, but having the tumor wholly removed in a 40-minute outpatient procedure no more traumatic than a visit to the dentist is such a woman's dream.

BeerSheva's Soroka Hospital has just installed a breast biopsy system that makes it the most comprehensive diagnostic and treatment center for breast tumors in the country — and among the best equipped in the world.

Hospital doctors say its \$500,000 digital stereotactic-imaging and minimally invasive biopsy system greatly minimizes the patient's anxiety, and replaces a conventional biopsy and surgery in which a general anesthetic is administered in an operating room. Despite the high cost, it is expected to become standard equipment in mammography and oncology centers around the country in years to come.

The ABBI (Advanced Breast Biopsy Instrumentation) system was donated to the Negev hospital by Milada Ayrton and George Shrut of Lausanne, Switzerland. There are a handful of these systems, approved by America's Food and Drug Administration in April, in the US, and two others are being installed in Germany and in England.

ABBI was added on to the hospital's special contoured table that allows women to lie flat on their stomach, the breast inserted through a hole in the table. This is regarded as the best position for 360-degree access to the entire breast for a digital, high-resolution scan. If a lesion is detected, a thin needle is inserted with computerized guidance to take a sample of the tissue. If the lesion is anywhere from microscopic to less than two centimeters in size and has not spread to the lymph nodes, it can then be removed completely with the cannula blade of the ABBI "gun."

The patient, who has received only a local anesthetic and is completely conscious during the procedure, has three or four tiny stitches done, rests a few minutes and then is allowed to go home, cancer free.

"I was completely at ease when I had it done," says T.K., a 68-year-old woman who was among the first to undergo the ABBI removal of a microscopic tumor in her left breast two weeks ago. "I was always busy in my job and I put off mammography. Then, at age 66, I went for a mammogram; I was told that one side there was

This book won't put you to sleep

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

BIRDS do it (although some may do it with one eye closed and one hemisphere of the brain activated); bees do it (but it's difficult to know); antelopes and bears do it (but animals that are preyed upon get much less of it than those who attack them). It's sleep — and an Israeli psychologist who has spent decades studying this most common but fascinating behavior has produced an international English-language best-seller on the subject.

Professor Peretz Lavie, director of the Haifa Technion's sleep labs and dean of the Technion's medical school, is now negotiating with a Japanese publisher to issue a translation of his book, *The Enchanted World of Sleep*, which has already been printed in Greek, Polish, French, Czech, Spanish, and German, in addition to its original in Hebrew (*Ha'olam Hakasum Shel Hashetna*, published in 1994 by Yediot Aharanot).

The 245-page English version, published by Yale University Press, was found in August on the best-selling list of the academic press in the US. It received rare reviews in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and other prestigious papers. "Apparently," says Lavie, "there has never before been a comprehensive work written about sleep on a serious but popular level."

Dr. Shalom Strano, head of Soroka's mammography unit, says that two other Israeli hospitals have mammography devices that can remove breast tissue for biopsy. But these are performed with the patient standing up, rather than lying prone; when the breast is pendulous, the results are much more flexible and accurate, he stresses. "Hospitals have been reluctant to invest a lot of money in a prone core device because it cannot be used for mammography alone, so they purchased the cheaper machines in which the patient stands up."

Not every woman with suspected breast cancer is suitable for the ABBI gun treatment, because of the size or location of the tumor. However, Strano notes that with the growing use of mammograms to detect tumors early, half of all breast lesions are detected when they are smaller than one centimeter. Thus, many patients can undergo the minimally invasive technique instead of conventional surgery, which requires an overnight hospital stay and the use of general anesthesia in a fully manned and equipped operating room.

Breast-cancer surgeon Dr. Michael Koretz, who immigrated here in 1992 from Atlanta, recently spent time in the US, where he trained in the use of the ABBI system. If the digital scanner detects a lesion, the cannula is inserted through a tiny incision and an oscillating blade removes the tumor. The pathologist helps ensure that the entire lesion has been removed. If the growth is found to have been malignant, the oncologists decide on whether further treatment, such as chemotherapy, is necessary.



Lavie with a patient: Apparently there's never been a comprehensive work written about sleep on a serious but popular level. (R. NORD)

a sleep lab at the Technion, which now has branches in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and in effect launched the field here. This "chain" of labs is now one of the biggest research facilities of its kind in the world, having examined and treated over 15,000 patients or about 20 sleepers on an average night.

Since Lavie returned from San Diego, sleep medicine has become an accepted topic in local medical schools, and most new specialists are physicians rather than psychologists. Today, he says, there are 15 people working directly in sleep medicine, many of them his former students, but hundreds more have a professional interest.

Yet Lavie's grandfather, a farmer who tilled the soil of Eretz Yisrael, was unimpressed when told of the young man's intention to study sleep. "He tried to convince me to look for a more 'useful' profession. 'What can a man achieve in his life if he is occupied with sleep?' he argued vigorously." But says Lavie, "my dear grandfather was wrong."

In the introduction to the book, which was superbly translated into English by Anthony Berris, Lavie writes that he often hesitates to tell people what he does for a living. When he does, the reaction is usually either a burst of laughter and a reflexive yawn — or a request for advice and medication to combat snoring, insomnia or other sleep-linked problems.

The book is chock full of facts, observations, findings and anecdotes. For many years, doctors and philosophers accepted Aristotle's view that sleep was caused by "isolation of the body from its senses" and the rising of "vapors" from the

stomach to the heart or brain. When Thomas Edison invented the incandescent bulb, he inadvertently caused mischief, because many sleep disorders are due to the incompatibility between our sleeping time and the substitution of light for darkness.

Only in the second half of the 20th century did medicine take a scientific approach to sleep. Doctors, who had previously regarded sickness as part of the conscious human condition, began studying illnesses in sleeping patients as well. Peretz writes. They realized some ailments appeared only during sleep.

One of the leading discoveries in the field was made by Nathaniel Kleitman, a Russian-born Jew who established the world's first sleep lab at the University of Chicago, in 1953, he discovered rapid eye movement (REM) sleep and its role in signaling dream sleep.

In the pioneering days of sleep research, patients were asked to hold a stone or a small ball in the palm of their hand outside the blankets. When it fell due to muscle laxity, the sleep-lab subjects were regarded as having fallen asleep. Today, of course, there are sophisticated computerized brain-wave scans and polysomnographic monitors that determine when the subject is in each phase of sleep.

Lavie gives a detailed explanation of sleep rhythms, and how to adjust that of infants or of air passengers suffering from jet lag. Scientists are certain today that the sleep-wakefulness rhythm is controlled by the nervous system and not by the external environment. The book reports on a Technion student who was about to be expelled due to chronic absences

because he couldn't wake up in the morning. Lavie's sleep lab examinations found the young man suffered from severe disturbances in his sleep-wakefulness rhythm. After Lavie persuaded the dean to modify his lecture and exam schedule to conform to his peculiar "sleep clock," the student graduated without difficulty.

It isn't difficult to get volunteers for sleep research, Lavie relates: Technion students are attracted to the idea of being paid for snoozing. But some of the experiments are grueling: In one trial, they are asked to fall asleep in seven minutes and then asked to leave the bedroom for 13 minutes, whether they had fallen asleep or not. The experiment continues every 20 minutes over a period of 24 hours. Although exhausted, the subjects are unable to fall asleep in the early evening, apparently due to a "locked sleep gate."

Variations in sleep-wakefulness are accompanied by changes in body temperature. People normally fall asleep when their body temperature drops, affecting the secretion of the hormone cortisol of potassium from the kidneys and the appearance of REM sleep. Melatonin, a hormone produced during periods of darkness by the pineal gland, has an important role in sleep cycles. Lavie's studies of blind children found their melatonin production peaked during the day rather than at night, frequently causing sleep disturbances.

Dreams, of course, take up several chapters in the book, and for many readers they will be the most fascinating parts. Holocaust survivors who had adjusted well to Israeli life were found to remember much less

of their dreams than those who had not adjusted well; apparently, the ability to avoid dreaming kept their traumas out of their minds. The dreams of people born blind don't include sights or scenes; their dreams are characterized by noises and emotional experiences without eye movements.

For insomnia sufferers, Lavie offers the following advice: Don't spend time in bed except when you go to sleep, get rid of a noisy ticking clock in your bedroom, don't try to force yourself to sleep, and avoid strenuous exercise, drinking coffee or alcohol or smoking before going to bed. Go to sleep and wake up at regular hours, don't eat a heavy meal before bedtime, and especially avoid sugar and chocolate. Lavie also advises insomnia sufferers not to sleep during the day.

Lavie notes that the "golden age of earth-shaking discoveries" regarding sleep has passed, but there is still much to be learned about melatonin, sleep apnea and other subjects. It will soon become routine for people with sleep disorders to spend a night in a sleep lab, he predicts, and professionals who must be alert, including air-traffic controllers, bus and truck drivers and nuclear reactor operators, will be required to undergo tests of their sleep clocks. Sleeping pills won't be prescribed indiscriminately, but patients will be examined carefully in sleep labs before any treatment is given.

Lavie concludes that he doubts man will ever be able to drastically shorten the time he spends sleeping or be able to do without it. Sleep is a "gentle tyrant" that "will continue to dominate us, softly and ethereally, until the end of time."

Have a heart, say donor pigs

HEALTH SCAN
POST HEALTH REPORTER

THE shortage of donor hearts has forced researchers in various parts of the world to search for an alternative in the barnyard. An Israeli transplant surgeon, Dr. Dan Aravot, has helped colleagues in the heart-lung transplant unit at Papworth Hospital in Cambridge, England, to reach a breakthrough in xenotransplantation using transgenic pigs.

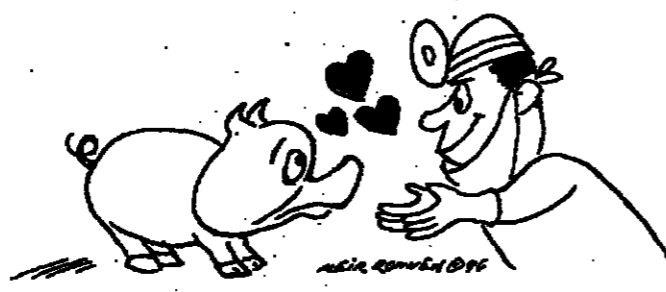
Transplants of human hearts has become so successful, that 70% are alive five years after the operation, according to an article by the Papworth team (including Aravot, who was on sabbatical from the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva), published in the latest issue of the *Israel Journal of Medical Sciences*.

However, a patient on the waiting list has a 20% chance of dying before receiving a transplant due to the shortage of organs.

Xenotransplantation, in which organs from animals are used in humans, can be a never-ending source of needed hearts. Pigs breed easily and quickly in captivity and share many anatomical and physiological features with humans, and using their organs will raise few ethical objections because they are a food staple in much of the world.

If the pig organs are not altered, they will cause severe rejection and graft failure within hours or even minutes. But better understanding of the rejection process has led to the development of strategies that may prevent rejection and enable porcine organs to be used for transplant.

One way out is to incorporate human genes for certain proteins into the genome of the pig. Fertilized ova were taken from a donor pig; the gene is incorporated by injecting thousands of copies of a human gene into the pronucleus. These cells are then reimplanted into a surrogate mother pig. After



four months, piglets are born with a human transgene, whose presence can be found in DNA analysis of bits of their ears. In the Papworth research, 49 sows delivered litters, yielding 311 piglets. Of these, 49 were found to have between one and 30 copies of the human gene.

Hearts from normal control pigs and transgenic pigs were transplanted into monkeys. The hearts from normal pigs survived for an average of 1.6 days, and from transgenic pigs for a significantly prolonged survival of 5.1 days. The presence of the human gene does not affect the pigs. These "exciting" results indicate, the authors wrote, that transgenic porcine organs may eventually be suitable for human transplantation. However, further studies using immunosuppression are being planned to achieve longer survival rates.

FRENCH MEDICAL GIFT
The French Foreign Ministry and Treasury have decided to donate \$250,000 to the French Hospital in Nazareth, to purchase special medical equipment. The French authorities told hospital director Dr. Salim Nahle of their agreement to make the donation during a recent visit he made to Paris. Nahle's request for aid was presented to the French government two years ago.

The new equipment will advance microsurgery in the ophthalmology and ear, nose and throat departments, as well as endoscopic

surgery in gynecology and ENT. The money will also be used to buy modern equipment for the pediatrics, neonatal, neonatal intensive care and surgical departments, as well as for labs and radiology units.

The 135-bed hospital, founded in 1898, has historical ties to France. Many medical and paramedical volunteers have spent time there over the years, assisting its 300 paid staffers. It serves the entire population in the area, and Palestinian residents of the autonomous areas — without discrimination according to religion or nationality.

DIAGNOSIS OF GENETIC DWARFISM
Genetically transmitted dwarfism can be diagnosed in utero at the Enei Zion Hospital in Haifa. According to Dr. Zvi Borochovitz, director of the hospital's human genetics institute, severe dwarfism results in the birth of a baby who grows to an adult height of less than 130 centimeters. It is caused by a halt in the growth of the skeleton. The causes are numerous: Childhood diseases of the kidneys or digestive system, problems affecting the production of growth hormones, malfunctioning of glands or mutated genes.

If one dwarf is born to a family, says Borochovitz, the parents are at a high risk of having another. Women can undergo histological and radiation tests during the early stages of pregnancy and undergo genetic counseling.

I am 61 and have type II (adult-onset) diabetes, but I don't get any special treatment except watch my diet. I was at the home of friends who are also diabetics and who regularly test their blood sugar on a home testing device. I tested a drop of my blood about four minutes after eating a luncheon and a salty biscuit. The first time the result was 445, which is very high; 20 minutes later, I did it again and it was 66. A third time, a few minutes later, it was 82. We tested three other people who regularly test their blood, and they said the results were accurate. Are these devices useful; are they accurate? Y.L., Jerusalem.

Prof. Hanoch Bar-On, head of the diabetes unit at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, explains:
The accuracy of glucometers for home use is plus or minus 10 percent. We encourage all patients with type I (juvenile-onset) diabetes to use home glucometers several times a day to keep close control over their blood sugar and diet. It has been proven that in type I diabetes, strict control of blood sugar does much to prevent complications affecting the heart, blood vessels, eyes and other organs.

We recommend glucometers for the 30 percent of type II patients who require insulin; they should test themselves two to five times a week. Although the effectiveness of strict control of blood sugar in type II patients who don't take insulin has not yet been conclusively proven, we believe this is so.

As for your specific question, I must be a detective as well as a doctor. It would take at least an hour for the sugar in the tangerine to enter your bloodstream, not four minutes. A reading of 445 is extremely high, so from your description, the only explanation I have is that the needle or the stick used with the glucometer was contaminated with juice from the tangerine you ate with your fingers. The second and third readings were close to accurate, so you must have washed your hands after the first test. Some type-II patients get very pressured when they test their blood sugar, so I would recommend your taking it easy, especially if you control your diabetes with diet and

Rx FOR READERS POST HEALTH REPORTER

not with insulin.

I prepare and drink each morning a juice composed of one grapefruit, two or three oranges and four lemons (all fresh). In the off-season, I use fresh green lemons and Prigat boxed orange and grapefruit juice. The box claims it has only natural juice. The whole "cocktail" tastes like the natural juice I prepare, but I'd like to know if it has less nutritional value than fresh. G.C., Holon.

Ayelet Harari, a dietitian at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, replies:
Citrus juice loses some of its vitamin C content soon after it is squeezed because of the exposure to air. Mineral and fiber content is not changed by this process. Look at the package to see if vitamin C is added. If so, you'll lose less of the vitamin.

The juice of fresh green lemons don't have a lower vitamin content than ripe yellow ones, but they do have a lower sugar content, as they are more sour. So all in all, you are not losing much by drinking this "cocktail" in the off-season. If vitamin C is important to you, you can return to fresh juice in the winter.

How should one take a multivitamin pill? Does coffee or milk interfere with it? Should it be taken on an empty or a full stomach? S.H., Ra'anana.

Jerusalem pharmacist Avi Raz replies:
Multivitamin pills should be taken at least a quarter of an hour after a snack or a meal, not on an empty stomach. Neither coffee nor milk will interfere with a multivitamin pill, even if the pill contains iron.

Today's multivitamins have only small amounts of iron; iron pills should not be taken with milk, because they bind together and the iron absorption is low, but a 20-minute delay will not affect the iron.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax to 02-5389527 or e-mail it to just@jpost.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence.

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A candidate for obscurity

MOSCOW has spent much of the week-end crowing too loud and too long over the deal it brokered to end an increasingly dangerous constitutional crisis in neighboring Belarus. It now seems the announcement of the triumph was somewhat premature, as the deal promptly collapsed yesterday on the eve of today's referendum aimed at carving out even more power for President Alexander Lukashenko.

The confrontation between president and parliament in Minsk equally promptly resumed its acrimonious course with the deputies re-opening impeachment proceedings and Lukashenko insisting today's referendum will be binding.

The collapse of the deal to defuse the crisis cannot be blamed on Russia; it merely was injudicious of the Kremlin leaders to assume the bitter wrangling in Minsk would go away. In fact, Europe is depending on the Russians to keep the Belarus situation under control. The unpleasant Lukashenko, who makes no secret of his admiration for the leadership style of Adolf Hitler, may consider his power trip to be important as well as exhilarating, but he is still standing on a political rug whose fringes rest in powerful Kremlin hands.

In the Minsk agreement Lukashenko signed after five hours of talks on Friday with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and parliamentary leaders from both Belarus and Russia, the president agreed that the referendum to extend his powers would not be binding. The Belarus parliament in return agreed to withdraw its impeachment motion, which was to have been heard by the Constitutional Court on Friday. The impeachment had been initiated after the prime minister resigned on Monday in disgust at Lukashenko's actions. The protagonists also agreed to convene a national congress to debate a new constitution for this former Soviet province of ten million people, since Lukashenko is accused of riding rough-shod over the old one.

Lukashenko has a wide range of European and world opinion against his increasingly dictatorial tendencies, which hark back to the power-crazed bosses of the communist era rather than looking to the more progressive models to the west of Belarus. A troika of ministers from Hungary, Switzerland and Denmark, representing the past, current and future heads of the powerful watchdog Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) sent an uncompromising message to Belarus saying the referendum would be completely illegitimate because it flouted constitutional court rulings.

Petty legalities and norms of democratic behavior seem of less and less importance to Lukashenko. He has paralyzed all media not under his control; state television shamelessly tells voters how they must vote tomorrow - for Lukashenko, of course - offering no coverage of other opinion. His contempt for the legal system is equalled only by his disregard for free speech, parliament and the constitution.

While there has been widespread and justified international criticism of Lukashenko's cavalier policies, the West at least can breathe a sigh of relief that Belarus, while still under democratic control, has now ceased to be a nuclear power. The last of its Soviet-era nuclear warheads left Russia for destruction on Friday, despite

Lukashenko's threat some months ago to halt the transfer of the last 18 of its 72 SS-25 strategic missiles as a bargaining chip against NATO's plans to expand eastwards. The removal is mandated under the START-I international arms reduction treaty.

Lukashenko rode to power in a landslide election victory in 1994. One of his main aims was to reunite Belarus with Russia, as in the Soviet days, but his enthusiasm for this has provoked strong opposition among more patriotic Belarusians. Moscow surprised the simplistic Lukashenko by being less than enthusiastic about a reunion. His authoritarian tactics, the country's economic crisis, and a possible nationalistic backlash made Belarus as attractive to Russia as a new Chechnya.

However, it must be said that Lukashenko retains a powerful following in the Belarus countryside. The "salt of the earth" type of non-nonsense people he uses to pour scorn on the urban intelligentsia and "unrealistic ultranationalists" who form the main opposition and street-demonstrating forces have made Moscow wary of embracing him. The rural constituency - conservative, nostalgic for Soviet certainties, victims of market reforms, lovers of strong leaders - is a natural ally for a man like Lukashenko who has nothing in common with these "real people" but who knows how to exploit them.

These supporters praise the iron fist he used to crush the "theoretical market reforms" after the Soviet Union broke up and are drawn to his vision of restoring at least a Belarus-Russia union, if not a Soviet one. But the growing realization by nationalists that their independence is being put up for sale has brought them onto the streets in growing numbers this year. It was these protests that led Lukashenko to call his referendum.

Lukashenko's bid to grab that power has also alarmed parliament. His enemies there wanted him to cancel the referendum, by which he means to raise new powers and extend his term to 2001. Parliament proposed instead that the presidency be virtually eliminated.

Lukashenko may well turn out to be nothing more than a tinpot dictator with delusions of grandeur as head of a small and impoverished state. Since Belarus is sandwiched between Europe and Russia and has a vital economic interest in not alienating either of these power blocs, it should not be too difficult to help cut Lukashenko down to size in the eyes of his own people. And since he has made such a play of drawing closer to Russia, it is clear that Moscow is the power that most effectively can bring influence to bear to stabilize Belarus and bring Lukashenko back into constitutional line.

The setback of the collapsed deal between him and parliament should not move the Kremlin to wash its hands of its neighbor. The Belarusians have the image of being a calm and sensible people, intolerant of troublemakers. It will do their country no credit to fall into the clutches of a man with Hitlerian delusions. Lukashenko is not the first strongman to try to hijack some small post-Soviet state. Most of them, unfamiliar with the interplay of international forces, have vanished into the trash can of history - even their names soon forgotten. The sooner Lukashenko joins them, the better.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S MALEVOLENCE

Sir - Malcolm Rifkind, Britain's Foreign Secretary, has now joined with France in scoring us for what he sees as our delinquencies. If he has made any statement favorable to Israel, he has neglected to bring this to our attention.

His criticism came at a time when we were on a 24-hour alert brought about by the Arabs he admires so much.

Britain still harbors considerable resentment, dating back to the post-1945 years, when their troops were driven out of Israel. Britain has never forgiven us for their enforced flight from this land which it hoped would continue as its Mediterranean base.

AVRAHAM ERIS

Safed.

VITRIOL

Sir - One of the most objectionable "features" published in the Friday edition of The Jerusalem Post is the column by Michal Yudelman. Week after week, it is filled with diatribe directed against the religious and the right wing. I read the column regularly in the vain hope that it will contain a positive statement about these two major segments of Israeli society. Alas, Ms. Yudelman can only perceive evil and knavery among them. Certainly, she has every right to her own opinions, but it is not just our good journalism to spew constant vitriol and hatred against those whose views she opposes.

HASKELL SELIGMAN
Ramat Gan.

FOLLOW THE SINGAPORE EXAMPLE

Sir - Much has changed since the June 1967 victory of Israel over the Arabs, especially in the so-called "liberal" Western press. In 1967, Israel's victory was hailed as a great win by David over Goliath. Today, of course, this same "liberal" press views the Palestinians as David, and reports on Israeli-Palestinian relations and affairs with an obviously anti-Israeli bias.

Among the worst examples were the reports on the 1982 invasion of Lebanon by the IDF. This biased reporting has been going on for about 20 years - and the longer Israel tolerates it, the more likely the world will start believing the worst of Israel.

The latest example is the Western media's report of "The Tunnel." From the Wall Street Journal to the Washington Post in the US, the ABC News in Australia and the National Public Radio in America, the venomous disinformation flowed aplenty. Only the Arab lies and not the real facts were ever reported. The Western media were completely fooled by the lies perpetrated by the Palestinians. This is only the latest, in my opinion, of an ever-worsening trend of Western reporting on Israel. The media will continue to spread the Arab lies and use those lies to "justify" Arab violence until the media achieve their self-anointed role of bringing about their idea of a "just" settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict by helping the Palestinians achieve statehood on

their terms. This is inevitable, unless Israel immediately follows the lead of tough little Singapore which bans reporters who regularly file biased reports and, in some cases, bans publications which publish such biased reports and then refuse to publish the Singapore government's response to it.

Initial reactions from so-called "liberal" Western politicians (as well as Israeli ones) to tougher measures along the line of those adopted by the Singapore government are bound to be negative; so what? The reporting is already negative, how much worse can it get?

It is frustrating for overseas Jews to listen to or read in the Western media all the biased anti-Israeli lies, and then try to explain them away to their children, friends and not-so-friends.

And it will get tiring for leaders of countries friendly to Israel to explain their support once their people's opinions have been poisoned by this daily barrage of biased propaganda. The world is too small a place now, and Israel needs trade, investments and proper understanding in the world for its economic and physical survival. Do not waste any more time agonizing over it! Just do it - follow the example of tough little Singapore.

GEORGE FORRAI
Hoàng Kong.



Back to basics

SUSAN BELLOS

I get worried when both right-wing politicians and left-wing journalists start pontificating about hoary old issues such as "education for values."

In less than deathless prose we are warned that our "youth" have lost their "values" and are, for example, no longer rushing to throw themselves into army combat units.

Indeed, they seem to be much more interested in having fun and making loads of money.

Therefore, both the politicians and the pundits conclude, more "education" is the answer.

What bugs me is the underlying assumption by both right and left that a set of appropriate values can or should be taught in schools like chemistry or English.

I can hear loud squawks from both right and left that "Of course, we don't teach ideology, heaven forbid!"

However, most societies tend to disseminate in their schools whatever is politically correct at the moment, whether it is the importance of French civilization, British imperialism, ecological or feminist consciousness or the history of this country from a Zionist perspective.

Like adultery, or bashing our kids when we can't take it any longer, it's something that many of us do and most of us don't want to admit.

But as any trade union official or Hebrew teacher in an American Jewish day school can tell you, plugging a cause - whether it is socialism or Hebrew culture - doesn't work when it is out of tune with the society around it.

The profound cynicism of the Brezhnev era had far more impact on Soviet youth than the mandatory school study of Marxism, and religious instruction in British schools had little effect on the sexual revolution of the Sixties.

In Israel the religious make no bones about the ideology they are meant to plug. Different ministries of education have also plugged ideology such as the Jewish consciousness programs instituted in the Sixties or the

Judaism-without-tears Tali programs for secular schools in the Eighties.

The fact that all religious parties go to the polls with religious education as the major plank in their platforms would suggest that a lot of Israelis don't think that these programs have worked.

Most telling of all is that comprehensive and well-funded pro-

Perhaps we should forget about boring old things like values

SCHOOLS reflect the ideology of the society around them. Neither the stereotype of the greedy young secular yuppie nor that of the religious right-wing teenage fanatic is a pretty one. Nor are either of these stereotypes too far from the truth.

Our lack of social and communal awareness, for example, is glaringly exemplified by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, who talks about the current "days of plenty" and about "Israelis currently enjoying an energetic economy with rising and more expendable income."

Surely he must know that Israel has the second-highest socioeconomic gap in the Western world after the US, and that child poverty is one of Israel's most acute social problems.

Perhaps the minister might notice this if he went hunting for officer material in Kiryat Malachi or Ofakim, instead of north Tel Aviv or Mevasseret.

Given that we live in a consumer society which is very much

part of the rest of the global village, it's hardly surprising that young men and women aren't too keen on things like heroism or self-sacrifice, let alone such quaint old-fashioned ideas like building a better society.

It will take rather more than the concerted efforts of the new Administration for Values Education and pep talks from army officers to change how these 18-year-olds see the world.

Perhaps schools are irrelevant when it comes to moulding tomorrow's citizens. Perhaps we should just stick to instructing them how to use computers and let them go on with it.

Perhaps we should forget about boring old things like values. After all, the cutting edge of technology is what it's all about, isn't it?

It all depends on what you think schools are for. If you think that education should also be concerned with teaching pupils how to think rather than what to think, some of the answers may not lie in setting up innumerable new committees.

If you want kids to learn, for example, how to analyze a piece of verbiage spewed forth by a party hack or how not to be gulled by either political propaganda or mass advertising you might teach them how to read a text and analyze it.

Or if you are concerned with how tomorrow's citizens will behave toward one another and not just how they will earn their livings, you educate them about the individual and society.

In short: You teach them those devalued and low-status subjects on the school curriculum, literature and world history.

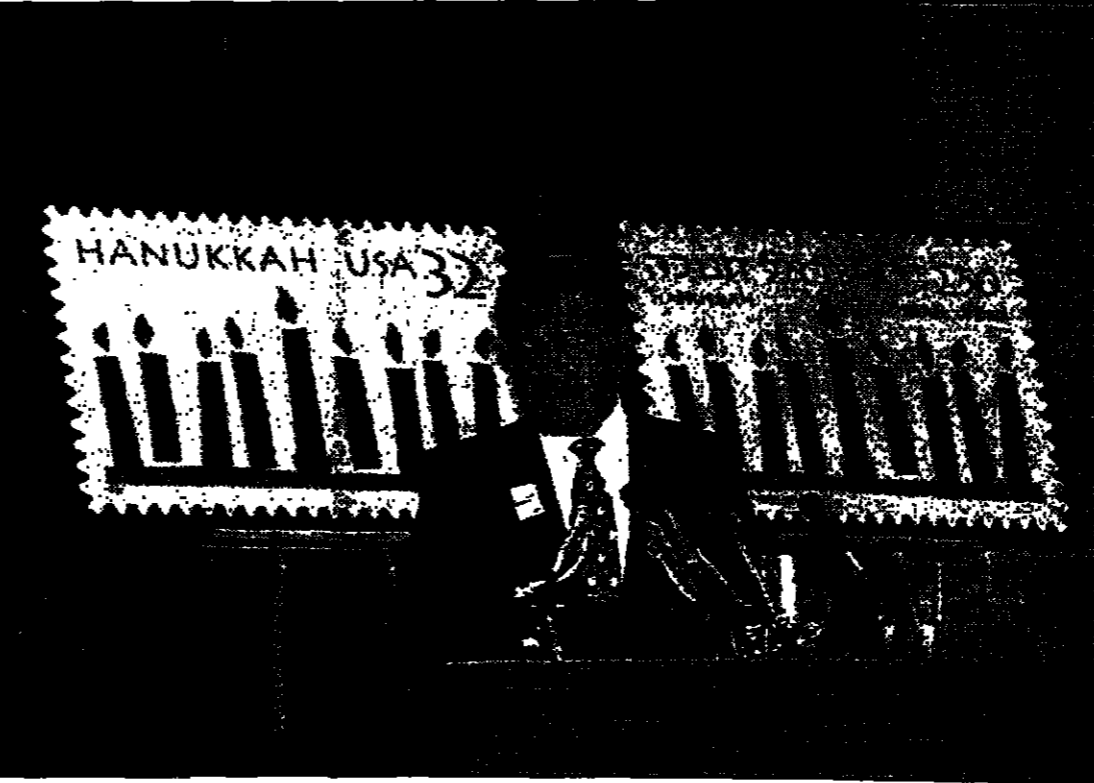
That does of course mean that pupils, as well as learning to count properly, will also have to learn to read properly.

It also means investing in those devalued and low-status members of our society - teachers.

You might call it back to basics.

The writer is an education journalist.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



With about as lengthy a runup as Christmas, Hanukka started early this year with the announcement in late October that the US and Israel are embarking on the first joint philatelic project. The identical stamps issued by the two countries were unveiled by Ambassador Elisha Ben-Elissar at the Israeli embassy in Washington.

POSTSCRIPTS

SWEDISH PRISON officers found a hole in the fence of a jail, and a ladder against its wall, but were amazed to discover that it wasn't a break-out; it was a break-in. The head of security at the Skogmanstaden prison in western Sweden, said thieves broke into the prison warden's office overnight.

But he said the intruders appeared to have been disturbed and fled empty-handed, leaving a crowbar behind.

BRAZILIAN POLICE arrested four Chinese nationals trying to smuggle clothes soaked in cocaine.

The Chinese had tried to cross from Paraguay into Brazil carrying T-shirts, ladies' underwear and other garments that had been immersed in cocaine dissolved in water.

Federal border agents discovered the novel smuggling method when they tested the clothes with chemicals.

CHINA IS rethinking plans to invite tenor Luciano Pavarotti to Hong Kong's 1997 handover celebrations because he's so expensive.

Organizers were reconsidering plans to feature Pavarotti and magician David Copperfield in the handover party because they wanted at least HK\$7 million (US\$897,000) each to perform.

Two worlds

SARA BAT-AMI

I think of my life in two ways at once: as a religious woman and as a lesbian. It has been a struggle to find people who acknowledge that I am both.

Where I live, outside Haifa, I keep pretty much to myself, which goes against my nature.

After a difficult divorce and many years of avoidance I turned to a support group to help me through the loneliness and confusion. I truly believed I was the only religious lesbian in the world.

The acceptance was comforting, but since the group wasn't a religious one I remained an outsider, sticking out like a sore thumb in my ny-lons and skirt.

More than that I found that the number of women who had abandoned religion because of their inability to reconcile their two worlds was so high that my presence made us all a bit uncomfortable.

In Haifa I found a few religious women like me struggling with the same issues:

"Do we stay religious?" "Well, I don't have a problem with God, and I can't imagine not keeping Shabbat or raising my kids traditionally."

"What about my partner?" "My ex?" "Could never leave my husband, but there just isn't anything there between us." And "How long can I go on feeling so empty?"

"Do I explain it to my children, and if so, how?" "How does this fit in with my understanding of Torah?" "Is this just about sex (a passion that can be overcome) or is it about commitment and connection?"

"Is it about 'falling in love' (something one can get over) or is it about wholeness?"

At least I had found a place to talk about it. But talking is not

We, the religious community, are making a big mistake when it comes to dealing with homosexuality

because the fear says we should.

Fear of being questioned. Of trusting someone outside the group. Of having to hide one's truest self from family and friends. Of losing the support of teachers and rabbis, of being misunderstood, labeled. I really resented that one.

After all I had achieved, being a loving, compassionate mother, a caring wife, a doer of good deeds and a dedicated teacher, why should I be reduced to a label?

Friends who have known me throughout this process have mostly been able to integrate my change positively because they know "me." But communities talk, and even best friends can't protect you from that.

Are those who quietly suggest that I should find a "different" community where "I would fit in better" looking out for my benefit? Are those who suggest I remove my children from religious school to spare them the teasing really "looking out for their best interests?"

How should I understand those who say it isn't "in the spirit of Torah" to build a life with someone of the same gender but happily rely upon halachic loopholes like selling their *heter* before Pessah?

WE, the religious community, are making a big mistake when it comes to dealing with homosexuality. We do a gross disservice to Torah when we stop reaching out to help. We must be human and understanding and not hypocritical; none of us is perfect.

From where do we learn that if you struggle with one mitzva you shouldn't do any? If this is our message I think we should ask if we are really acting in God's image.

My goal is to become the best "me" I can. And the definition of that is between myself and my Maker in a process that will take my entire life.

Gossip and persecution are the antithesis of loving your neighbor as yourself. The ability to quote Leviticus against homosexuals ought not to shadow our responsibility toward them as members of the Jewish people.

Inside each of us lies a God-given insight. Let us use it to judge each other on the many mitzvot we do each day. *Sefer of the Fathers* 1:6 emphasizes our responsibility to judge a person - the whole person - favorably. It will reap great reward in this world and the next.

Instead of "baseless hatred" why not cultivate "baseless love"? It would mark the speedy arrival of the Messiah.

The writer is an educator.



(Above) Journey to Jewish Poland, Warsaw, 1932; (below left) Tim Gidal, self-portrait, 1930; Shadows, Alexandria, Egypt, 1943

Hard times in Jerusalem

THERE AND THEN
SRAYA SHAPIRO

LIFE in Jerusalem has never been easy. In the 18th century it often grazed on hellish Jerusalem, under Ottoman rule, was a provincial town of no importance. Administratively, it depended on the governors of Galilee, who seldom, if ever, visited it. The town had lost its commercial importance to Safed and Acre, and its embittered citizens endeavored to survive by pressing their Jewish and Christian inhabitants to pay numerous taxes and duties for services - real or imaginary.

The predicament emerges clearly from the cases tried in the Moslem religious court in the Holy City, as reported in Hebrew by Professor Amnon Cohen of the Hebrew University in *Yehudim Beveit Hamishpat Hamuslemi* ("Jews in the Moslem Religious Court," Yad Ben-Zvi Publishers).

The Mograbis (originating from the Moroccan side of North Africa), who lived in the houses near the Western Wall, pressed to ban the Jews from passing through their quarter on the way to the "Al-Aksa Wall." They claimed that the Jewish worshippers sullied the Mograbi lanes they were passing through, and their prayers disturbed the Mograbi sages from studying the Koran. Invoking legality, the kadi (judge) wanted to see a written document that allowed the Jews to gather near the Western Wall - which, of course, the Jews were unable to produce.

Clashes between Jewish and Moslem worshippers occurred at Nebi Samwil, the hill which is considered as the burial place of prophet Samuel. The Moslems built a mosque on the tomb, and charged the Jews who came there to pray with sacrilege. The matter went up to Istanbul where Sultan Ahmed III issued an order banning the Jews. But 13 years later, the same sultan conceded Jews could perform their rites at Nebi Samwil, asserting their long-time tradition. The Moslems objected not only to the presence of men and women near the tomb, but to the mixing of men and women among them, and their other customs such as burning old clothes in the cave where the tomb was situated.

Tension arose over the right of Jews to use the public baths at Hamam el-Ein. The Moslems complained that the Jews were raising a stink, and that men and women were using the same place, albeit not together, "let the curse be on them." The taxes and levies imposed on

Jewish and Christian citizens of Jerusalem were, generally, not high, but there were a great number of them, notes Cohen. Demands for payments came from many parts: The governor, the Wakf, the inhabitants of Al Ikra village who robbed the pilgrims on their way up to the Holy City. The Sephardi community gave four blocks of sugar and 65 Egyptian silver coins to Moslems, twice yearly. The Ashkenazi also contributed similar presents. The pashas who ruled Jerusalem were imposing "voluntary contributions" - such as a gift of 50 camels and eight kis (a kis was worth 500 grush).

Unable to bear the squeeze, some of the most influential - and probably the richer - Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem took refuge in Hebron, where at that time 60 Jewish heads of families lived. The Moslem mighties decided something had to be done to prevent the exodus of the Jews. Indeed, Rabbi Avraham Yitzhaki, who used to tour the European regions of the Ottoman Empire in quest of donations from Jews, was asked by the Jerusalem kadi to come back from Hebron, where he had gone to live. The rabbi was promised that he would not be molested in Jerusalem, on condition he wrote to the Jewish communities in the Balkans asking for contributions. The UJA had not been invented then.

In spite of the appalling conditions in Jerusalem, pilgrimages and immigration have never stopped. Many of the followers of Shabbai Zvi came to live in Jerusalem. Another group of immigrants were the followers of Rabbi Yehuda Hassid, in central Europe, while Rabbi Haim Ben-Atar headed the wave of immigrants from North Africa. There was no Jewish community in Jaffa those days, until a rich Jew from Istanbul bought the flat roof of a large building in Jaffa and turned it into a temporary abode for travelers awaiting transport to Jerusalem.

The Jewish community was organized as a semi-autonomous group. It was headed by a "parnass," whose duties included levying taxes for various Moslem institutions. However, the nomination was to be sanctioned by the kadi. Occasionally, the community asked the kadi to replace the "parnass," whom they accused of "joining unfaithful men" and incurred large debts which the community found hard to pay. Living on credit was not invented by Israeli officialdom.

Gnashing teeth

HEADS 'N' TAILS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

A reader telephoned me to ask what she could do about a young Labrador, about six or eight months old, that destroys everything in the house that is within its reach every time it is left alone.

It has become so bad and the damage is so serious the reader and his partner are considering whether they can even keep the dog. But the couple both work and the dog has to be left alone for about five hours a day.

Puppies are notorious for chewing on things. Just as toddlers tug and grasp at every item within reach, so a dog takes everything into its mouth, which is its principal sensory avenue.

The dog is, in part, making an effort to get acquainted with its environment and to a large extent relieving its boredom when left alone. As the dog gets older it becomes more familiar with things around it and no longer has such a great need to explore them and thus the "straight to the mouth" syndrome eases up.

Certain breeds are, it is true, more avid chewers of carpets, shoes, clothing, books and toys than others. I think that young German shepherds and terriers are the champions. But some dogs do have this tendency to an exaggerated degree, and simply eat everything they encounter.

A few years ago it was customary to X-ray the hips of pups of certain breeds at the age of six months to try to weed out those with hip dysplasia.

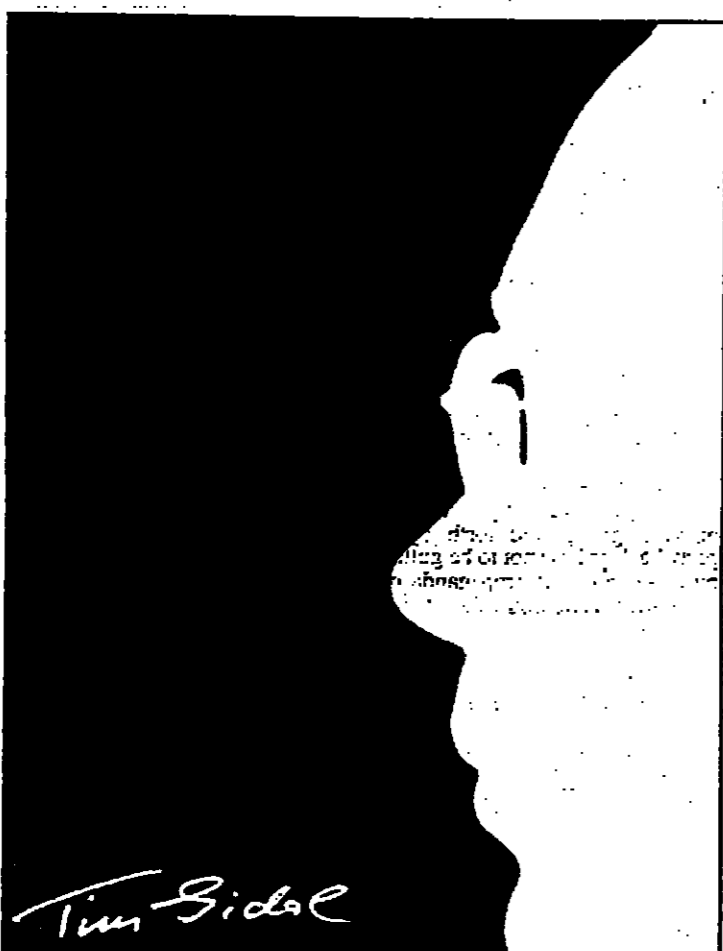
In doing so one usually gets a picture of the stomach and intestines as well. It was amazing to find out just what puppies are capable of ingesting. Surprisingly none of these pups seemed to suffer any ill consequences from these objects.

The exception to this seemed to be synthetic materials, such as kitchen sponges, which cause a lot of trouble and result in intestinal obstructions. Usually a dog outgrows such behavior and after a year and a half or so it has settled down.

Some dogs, however do not outgrow this stage and remain a problem for years. Training isn't always the answer either, although a dog can learn to avoid certain items. If you are lucky the chewing stage is temporary; if not, then everything is grist for its mill.

The only thing that can be done is to limit the dog's access to most of the house by closing it off in one place, even a small room, where everything that can be destroyed has been put out of reach.

Once everything that's to be protected has been removed, the dog should have a good supply of the things that it is allowed to chew. Results are not guaranteed but sometimes this step makes life a little better for everyone concerned until, one hopes, the animal has outgrown these very distressing habits and settled down.



A pioneer of modern photo reporting

ON CAMERA
DAVID BRAUNER

IGNAZ Nahum Tim Gidal, who died last month in Jerusalem at the age of 87, was a legend among modern photo reporters.

A number of the news photographers who attended Gidal's funeral did not necessarily know the man well. They came to pay homage to a photographer whose ground-breaking work helped father a profession which did not exist when he was born.

Gidal's life of achievements has been well documented in the press and in books, and need not be repeated here. But indicative of his contributions to photography are the firsts he chalked up during his 67-year career.

Briefly, when he began photographing in 1929 at the age of 20, Gidal placed himself among the first six or seven "pioneers of modern photo reporting." Gidal's famous 1929 photograph of Hitler in uniform is the only known picture of him taken without his permission or knowledge before 1933.

Before immigrating to Palestine in 1936, Gidal completed his doctorate on "Picture Reporting and the Press" in Basel. His work represented the first intellectual treatment of photo reportage in academic circles. In 1937 the Paris weekly *Marie Claire* ran a set of Gidal's Holy Land images. It was the first time a color photo spread was published from 35 mm. color film, which had just been introduced to the public in that year.

I first met Gidal 12 years ago. *The Jerusalem Post* sent me to do an exclusive interview on the

occasion of his 75th birthday. At first he was stiff, formidable and academic. When he forgot himself and began to reminisce, he was at his fascinating best. Sitting back in his wing chair, he described how he used to work in the beginning. Gidal spent hours in complete darkness, running lengths of film through open trays of chemicals. Convenient film-developing tanks for use in daylight, which all photographers take for granted today, had not yet been invented. Gidal deplored the fact that modern photographers can print pictures in two or three seconds. In the early days of the developing process, it could take him hours to perfect a single image. The papers also had to be heat-dried and glazed.

Gidal explained that he was a "photo reporter." He adamantly disliked the terms "news photographer" and "photojournalist." He insisted, "Journalists write. A man's either a bloody journalist or a photo reporter."

Despite his colorful, direct language and honest opinions, Gidal eschewed violence both in his speech and photography. He said, "I never shoot pictures, I take pictures." In an autobiographical introduction to his retrospective exhibition at Tefen's Open Museum in 1992, he wrote: "Photos of dead soldiers especially I consider an 'everything for a buck' vulgar intrusion in the last privacy of a human being."

For Gidal the first quality he looked for in a photographer was the ability to communicate with people. "As important as commu-



nication for him was discretion. "Never molest anyone with a camera, and they won't molest you." Humility and education were also ingredients in the Gidal formula that made "for deeper values in photo reporting."

Photographer Douglas Guthrie, who acted as assistant during Gidal's last course at Hebrew University's Communications Department in the early '90s, hails him as a "great educator." His lectures drew capacity audiences with the overflow having to stand. "As he reviewed his slides for his students," says Guthrie, "he discovered things for himself. He enjoyed the fact that he was still learning. While he taught his eyes sparkled. The lesson ended and you didn't know where the time had gone."

Despite the prodigious amount of work (books, learned articles, lectures, exhibitions) he did during the last 26 years of his life in Jerusalem, Gidal always managed to make time for other people. He faithfully kept up correspondences and, together with his wife, Pia, made the Gidal household into a stimulating center of old-world warmth and hospitality.

On our last visit to his home, Gidal was walking more slowly but his mind had not lost an ounce of its sharpness, nor had his famous laugh diminished.

We had fun with two tiny toy cameras he picked up at the Kodak Museum in Buffalo, New York. The simple shutter mechanism in one had broken. When I fixed it for him, he beamed with delight.

During the conversation, he called himself "Der Gidal," using the German to stress the idea of "the one and only." That he certainly was, and it was a privilege for our generation to have known him.

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Kemp, Payton lead Seattle to 10th-straight win; Bulls at 12-0

BOSTON (AP) - The Seattle SuperSonics stretched their winning streak to 10 games Friday night as Shawn Kemp and Gary Payton scored 22 points each in a 118-91 win over the injury-plagued Boston Celtics.

The Celtics, who trailed 62-45 at halftime, pulled to 80-71 before the Sonics finished the third quarter with a 7-0 run to go ahead 87-71. Seattle led by at least 16 points the rest of the way.

Seattle (11-2), which matched the third-longest winning streak in its history, has dominated opponents with an 8-1 record in games decided by 10 points or more.

Boston has been routed in its last three games, losing by 14 and 25 points before the setback to Seattle. Rick Fox scored 21 points and Todd Day had 17 for the Celtics (2-8), who scored fewer than 100 points for the seventh time.

The Celtics were without four players who were projected as starters when the season began, and had only four players on the bench.

Bulls 88, 76ers 76
Juwan Howard had 18 points and 10 rebounds, and host Washington limited Philadelphia to 38 percent shooting and forced 26 turnovers.

Chris Webber and Rod Strickland had 13 points each for the Bulls, who never trailed in winning for only the third time in eight games. Washington closed the first half with a 10-0 run to go

up 48-35, then began the third quarter with a 10-4 spree to increase the margin to 19.

It was 68-49 after three periods, and the only suspense in the final 12 minutes was whether Washington would snap the team mark for fewest points allowed - 74 against the Cleveland Cavaliers in December 1982.

The Sixers spoiled the Bulls' quest by scoring 27 points in the fourth quarter. Washington's Harvey Grant and Philadelphia's Jerry Stackhouse nearly got into a fight in the final three minutes after Grant was called for a foul, but the players were separated after locking their arms around each other's head.

Lakers 96, Spurs 86
Shaquille O'Neal had 29 points and 21 rebounds as host Los Angeles beat the injury-depleted Spurs.

With Spurs center David Robinson and forward Sean Elliott in street clothes on the bench, the Lakers averaged a 95-83 loss 10 days earlier in San Antonio.

Eddie Jones scored 24 points for the Lakers. He made a fast-break basket, then fed O'Neal for a layup to help Los Angeles pad the lead after San Antonio narrowed the gap to 74-70 early in the fourth quarter.

The Spurs got no closer than six points the rest of the way. Dominique Wilkins led San Antonio with 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Will Perdue had 17 points when he fouled out with 1:04 left in the game.

Heat 111, Kings 108 (2 OT)
Tim Hardaway made four straight free throws in the final 18 seconds, giving visiting Miami a double overtime victory.

Issac Austin put the Heat ahead for good, making a free throw with 24 seconds remaining for a 107-106 lead. Austin missed his second free throw, but Miami got the rebound and Hardaway was fouled.

Hardaway, who finished with 22 points, made two free throws to put the Heat up 109-106 with 18 seconds left in the second overtime.

Corliss Williamson scored inside with 11 seconds left to cut Miami's lead to 109-108, but Hardaway made two free throws with 9 seconds remaining for the final margin.

Mitch Richmond, who scored 32 points, missed a desperation 3-point shot for the Kings with five seconds left in the second OT. Richmond made a 3-point shot with one second left in the first overtime to tie it 100-100.

Thursday's Games
Bulls 110, Nuggets 92
Michael Jordan scored 31 points, including 13 in a take-charge second quarter, and Chicago remained the NBA's only unbeaten team by routing host Denver.

The Bulls, 12-0 and only three games shy of equaling the NBA record for victories to open a season, shot 49 percent compared to Denver's 35 percent and never were threatened after a 21-6 run



WEIGHTY WELCOME - French President Jacques Chirac is welcomed by sumo wrestlers as he visits the Fukuoka International Center to see a sumo tournament on Thursday.

Rushing is the name of today's Washington-San Francisco game

NEW YORK (AP) - What happens when the NFL's best rushing team faces the NFL's best defense against the run?

"We'll find out today when the Washington Redskins play the San Francisco 49ers in a meeting of first-place teams at RFK Stadium.

"Something's got to give," Redskins offensive guard Tye Johnson said. "We're planning for it to be them."

Washington (8-3) is averaging 137 yards on the ground, while San Francisco (8-3) is giving up only 90.

"We haven't faced anybody who's better running the football," 49ers coach George Seifert said. "Dallas has the reputation, but their running game isn't quite what it has been."

Washington's Terry Allen has rushed for an NFL-leading 1,060 yards and 17 touchdowns. But the key to the Redskins' rushing attack is their offensive line,

which also provides great pass protection for Gus Ferrette, who has been sacked an average of just once per game.

That line will be challenged by the 49ers' strong front four of Chris Doleman, Dana Stubblefield, Bryant Young and Roy Barker, who have combined for 26 sacks this season.

"That means they can get down in the trenches and fight," Redskins offensive tackle Joe Patton said. "That's the kind of team you like."

Steve Young, who missed last week's game against Baltimore while recovering from a concussion, will return as the 49ers' starting quarterback. But he won't get any sympathy from Washington safety Darryl Morrison.

"It would be good for us if we can get him out of the game in some type of way," Morrison said. "We want to get some helmets on him and get him woozy a little bit."

In other NFL games today, it's Atlanta at Cincinnati, Carolina at Houston, Denver at Minnesota, Detroit at Chicago, Indianapolis at New England, Jacksonville at Baltimore, New Orleans at Tampa Bay, the New York Jets at Buffalo, Dallas at the New York Giants, Oakland at Seattle, Philadelphia at Arizona, and Green Bay at St. Louis.

Tomorrow night, Pittsburgh plays at Miami.

The Colts-Patriots game will have a major impact on the AFC playoff picture.

New England (7-4) and Indianapolis (6-5) are chasing first-place Buffalo (8-3) in the AFC East. The Patriots had their four-game winning streak ended last week by Denver, while the Colts snapped their four-game losing streak with a comeback win over the Jets.

"We needed that one in the worst way," Colts coach Lindy Infante said. "You can't say it thrust us back up to the front, but it certainly gave us some renewed hope."

The Patriots need to rebound from their 34-8 loss to the Broncos.

"Sometimes when you take a bad beating, it shakes you," coach Bill Parcells said. "This will be a good test for us."

After losing at home the last two weeks, Philadelphia (7-4) will try to get back on track at Arizona (5-6). Quarterback Ty Detmer said the Eagles have to get more aggressive.

"The last couple of weeks it's been like, 'Let's not screw it up,'" Detmer said. "We need the type of attitude where we're going to play hard, win the individual battles and let the chips fall where they may."

The Cardinals, who have won two straight, can reach the .500 mark for the first time in two years with a win over Philadelphia.

"I don't care how the Eagles feel," coach Vince Tobin said. "That's their problem. I've got my own problem. I'm trying to get this team to .500."

AMERICAN CONFERENCE					NATIONAL CONFERENCE								
Rank	Team	W	L	T	Points	Diff.	Rank	Team	W	L	T	Points	Diff.
1	Baltimore	10	0	0	273	+284	1	San Francisco	8	3	0	272	+284
2	Washington	8	3	0	268	+284	2	Dallas	7	4	0	268	+284
3	Indianapolis	7	4	0	245	+284	3	San Diego	7	4	0	245	+284
4	Denver	7	4	0	245	+284	4	Atlanta	7	4	0	245	+284
5	Pittsburgh	6	5	0	231	+284	5	Seattle	6	5	0	231	+284
6	Philadelphia	5	6	0	211	+284	6	Arizona	5	6	0	211	+284
7	Minnesota	4	7	0	201	+284	7	Carolina	4	7	0	201	+284
8	Cincinnati	4	7	0	191	+284	8	Green Bay	4	7	0	191	+284
9	San Francisco	3	8	0	171	+284	9	Chicago	3	8	0	171	+284
10	Cleveland	3	8	0	161	+284	10	Denver	3	8	0	161	+284
11	Buffalo	2	9	0	141	+284	11	San Francisco	2	9	0	141	+284
12	New England	2	9	0	131	+284	12	San Francisco	2	9	0	131	+284
13	San Francisco	2	9	0	121	+284	13	San Francisco	2	9	0	121	+284
14	New York Jets	2	9	0	111	+284	14	San Francisco	2	9	0	111	+284
15	San Francisco	1	10	0	91	+284	15	San Francisco	1	10	0	91	+284
16	San Francisco	1	10	0	81	+284	16	San Francisco	1	10	0	81	+284
17	San Francisco	1	10	0	71	+284	17	San Francisco	1	10	0	71	+284
18	San Francisco	1	10	0	61	+284	18	San Francisco	1	10	0	61	+284
19	San Francisco	1	10	0	51	+284	19	San Francisco	1	10	0	51	+284
20	San Francisco	1	10	0	41	+284	20	San Francisco	1	10	0	41	+284

Cleveland to Belle: Don't let the door hit you on the way out!

CLEVELAND (AP) - They'll miss his hitting, but few will miss the man.

Even though Albert Belle had played for the Cleveland Indians since 1989 and became one of baseball's most feared hitters with 98 home runs in the last two seasons, his departure to the Chicago White Sox and a \$55 million, five-year contract tears to flow back home.

Indians fans who have backed the controversial left-fielder through good times and bad - on and off the field - showed little remorse.

Bill Needle, a host on WKRN sports talk radio in Cleveland, said last week about 70 percent of the people calling to comment on the Belle departure were largely unemotional, chalking it up to Belle's business decision.

The rest were highly emotional - most apparently relieved he's gone.

Much of the concern expressed, Needle said, was not for the loss of Belle personally. It was about what loss of his bat may mean to the Indians.

"I think it is really inciting a fear of going back to the dark ages of 100-loss seasons," Needle said.

He added that a lot of fans are not aware yet that Matt Williams, a player recently acquired in a trade with San Francisco, also is known for power.

Belle has his defenders. "I think Albert Belle has a lot of loyal fans who aren't upset with him leaving. They will be his fans no matter where he's at," said Dan Malley, a vice president of Cleveland's Malley's Chocolates and Belle's business partner in production of Albert Belle candy bars. The company plans to try marketing them in Chicago.

Smoltz, Braves look forward to future

ATLANTA (AP) - The Atlanta Braves had a lot of things in their favor when they began negotiations with John Smoltz - a city he likes, a winning tradition, the familiarity that comes from playing with a team since 1988.

When the Braves, on top of all that, offered to make him the highest-paid pitcher in baseball history, the decision became a no-brainer for the NL Cy Young award winner.

Hoping to sign a new deal before Christmas, Smoltz didn't even have to wait until Thanksgiving. This week, he re-signed with the Braves for a four-year, \$31 million contract - a record for a pitcher and the third-highest average salary in the major leagues.

The Braves also have an option for a fifth year at \$8m.

"I'm excited about the next five years, moving into a new stadium and just the ability to know that every year in spring training this organization is going to give me a chance to go to the postseason," Smoltz said. "We're so spoiled as players to have been in five of them already. That's what we play for. That's what it's all about."

Since 1991, the Braves have won five divisional titles, four NL pennants and one World Series championship.

This past season, Smoltz, 29, led the majors with 24 wins and 276 strikeouts, along with a 2.94 ERA. He added four more wins in the postseason before the Braves were beaten by the New York Yankees in the World Series.

Now, he'll be expected to come close to those numbers each year because of the huge contract he just signed.

"I welcome the challenge," Smoltz said. "No matter what you make, you still have to be the best you can. I don't know if 24 wins is a plateau I will reach every year because, obviously, I got a tremendous amount of support this year. But as far as being a better pitcher and getting better, there's a lot of areas I can improve on."

At least four teams, led by Cleveland, showed serious interest

Prez' big game with Norman turns into teaching clinic

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - The president practiced his drives. He worked on his putting. He surveyed his clubs. And then he blew his first shot.

After days of anticipation, President Clinton teed off Thursday with Australian golf pro Greg Norman for the game of a lifetime.

"Too far left!" the president moaned as his first shot veered off course.

"Are you going to take another?" asked Norman, handing him another ball.

With that ready offer of a mulligan, or extra shot, the game quickly evolved into a sort of teaching clinic for Clinton from one other than the Shark, holder of 16 PGA titles and national hero in his native Australia.

"Someone call Maxfli and get some more balls," Norman urged at the outset, making a joking call for reinforcements from a golf equipment company.

In a more charitable assessment on the sixth hole, Norman professed that Clinton was beating him.

"If you believe that, I've got a little land I want to show you," chimed in Clinton, who reveled in a steady stream of free advice from Norman.

They didn't keep score. "It was pretty much an 18-hole golf lesson for the president by Greg Norman," said White House spokesman David Johnson.

One nice thing about being president of the United States is that when you make an offhand wish for something, it just might come true.

Dow on the rise Dollar rises against European currencies

WALL STREET REPORT

CURRENCY REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Technology shares snapped back Friday after two sessions of profit-taking...

Thursday reported earnings that met expectations. On the NYSE, IBM continued its week-long rally...

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 53.29 points to close at 6,471.76 - its 10th record close in 13 sessions.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by an 11-to-7 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,535 up, 976 down and 817 unchanged.

Leading the technology sector's climb was Applied Materials, which surged as the most active Nasdaq issue.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index rose 5.95 to 749.70, and the NYSE's composite index rose 2.41 to 394.66.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The dollar rose sharply against the German mark Friday, indirectly aided by the lira's drop after Italy asked the European Union to rejoin Europe's system of semi-fixed exchange rates.

The lira fell against the dollar and mark as traders backtracked on recent bets that the Italian currency would enter Europe's currency grid at a strong central rate against the mark.

The market was reluctant to continue speculating that the lira would be fixed higher than its current price against the mark.

"They had to sell some of the lira back and I think what has occurred is it has created a squeeze (in the dollar)," said John Cariano, a vice president of foreign exchange at Summitone Bank in New York.

The dollar also surged against the British pound, which retreated from Thursday's four-year high amid concerns that a strong pound would hurt British exports.

Wall Street thankful going into holidays WALL STREET WEEK

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Wall Street has plenty to be thankful for as the holiday season approaches...

and KLA Instruments Corp. soaring Friday. Depending on one's point of view, the resurgent technology sector was either just what the market needed or a sure sign matters were getting out of control.

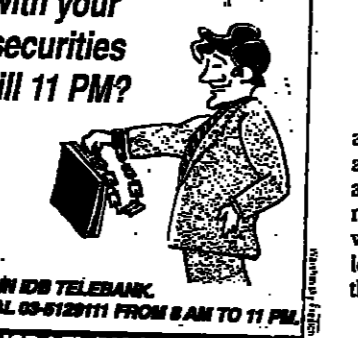
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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table with columns for currency deposit rates (3, 6, 12 months), exchange rates, and bank rates for various currencies.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of Mutual Funds under the 'Flexible' category, listing fund names, assets, and performance metrics.

Table of Mutual Funds under the 'Shares' category, listing fund names, assets, and performance metrics.

Table of State Bonds, listing various government bonds and their yields.

Table of Company Bonds, listing corporate bonds from various companies.

Table of Foreign Currency exchange rates for various international currencies.

Table of Mixed investments, including a mix of stocks and bonds.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table listing international stock prices for various companies from different countries.

LIBOR RATES

Table showing LIBOR rates for different terms and currencies.

DOLLAR CROSS-RATES (US)

Table showing dollar cross-rates for various international currencies.

NEW YORK COMMODITIES AND METALS

Table showing commodity and metal prices in New York.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table showing commodity prices in London.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table showing spot market metal prices in the US.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table showing metal futures prices in New York.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table showing metal fix prices in London.

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MK Tarif visits accused spy Azzam

CAIRO (AP) - Azzam Azzam, the Israeli accused of espionage in Egypt, is being treated well in prison, MK Sallah Tarif (Labor) told Egypt's state-owned Middle East News Agency Friday.

Azzam "received good treatment in his prison," Tarif was quoted as telling the news agency after visiting him.

Earlier Friday, a security official said Azzam's wife and two brothers would be allowed to visit him now that police have finished their interrogation.

Egyptian law generally bars suspected spies from meeting with anyone but their lawyers until their indictment has been announced. An exception is being made for this high-profile case. Prosecutor Hisham Seraya said the visit was considered a special "humanitarian gesture."

Tarif met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa on Thursday and said they discussed Azzam's fate. Tarif, like Azzam, is a Druse.

Azzam and an Egyptian arrested shortly after him on the same charges are expected to be indicted in the next few days.

Azzam, from Maghar village in the Galilee, worked as a mechanic at the Egyptian-Israeli Tefron textile factory in Cairo. He was arrested November 6 by Egyptian security agents in front of his Cairo hotel

and accused of recruiting Egyptians to gather information on the country's military.

Azzam has denied the charges, but the accused Egyptian, Emad Abdel-Hamid Ismail, is reported to have told investigators that Azzam recruited him to spy.

Meanwhile, Egypt's counter-espionage service has arrested a 47-year-old Egyptian man on suspicion of selling military information to the Mossad, the government newspaper *al-Ahram* said on Friday.

It said the man, Samir Osman, met Mossad agents in Greece, Turkey and Hungary or by swimming to Israel underwater with scuba diving equipment, near Taba.

Osman was said to have confessed to providing the Mossad with information about the Egyptian navy and about the place where he served in the Egyptian military.

The newspaper said the arrest was part of a counter-espionage operation which started in October. Osman was initially remanded in custody for 15 days and this has since been extended by a further 45 days, it added.

It did not link Osman with the case of Azzam.

Israel has denied Azzam is a spy but Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak insists that he is and has rejected Israeli appeals that the Egyptian authorities release him.



This etching of a couple from 16th century Germany is among the works in an exhibit on Jewish dress in Eastern Europe and North Africa opening this week at the National Library at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Givat Ram campus.

Arab council heads to continue protests

DAVID RUDGE

ARAB council leaders intended to continue their campaign to press the government to bail out the debt-ridden local authorities, despite a meeting on Friday with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

The meeting itself followed a stormy demonstration by the council heads and hundreds of municipal employees outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

Scuffles broke out with police during the course of the demonstration and one of the protesters was taken by ambulance to hospital for light injuries.

The protesters chanted slogans calling for "equality, not discrimination," and demanded increases in regular budgets to bring them into line with those given to councils in the Jewish sector.

The 53 Arab councils have altogether accumulated debts totaling NIS 430 million and more than half have been unable to pay the salaries of municipal workers, including teachers and school assistants - some of them for several months.

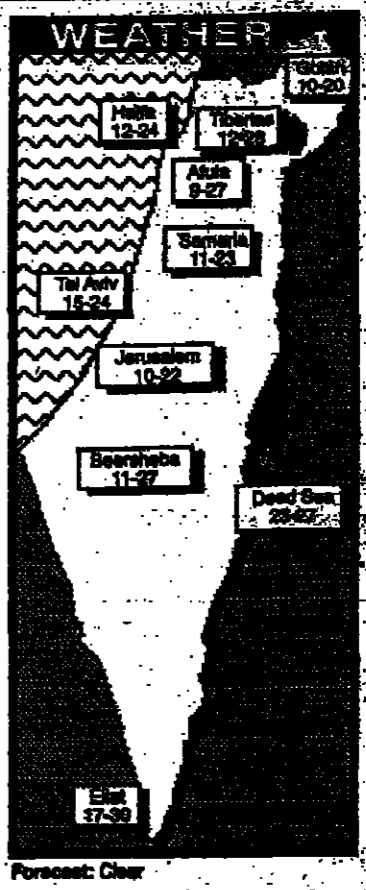
"The situation is quite simple. More than half of the councils are bankrupt and cannot provide services to their residents," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads.

Suleiman said a delegation of council leaders met with Netanyahu after the demonstration but his response to their demands was "far from encouraging," he said.

"On the contrary, from what we heard from the prime minister no special aid will be given separately to the Arab sector and the plight of the councils will worsen," said Suleiman, himself head of Mashi'ad local council near Nazareth.

"We barely reach half of the size of the budgets given to the Jewish sector, which is why our debts are so big. We need immediate action to solve our problems, instead of which we heard that there will be cutbacks because of the decision to cut the NIS 7 billion from the national budget," said Suleiman.

He said the council heads would hold an emergency meeting with other Arab leaders, including MKs next Sunday to decide on future action.



AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	01	10	cloudy
Berlin	01	10	cloudy
Brussels	01	10	cloudy
Cairo	16	24	clear
London	01	10	cloudy
Madrid	01	10	cloudy
Moscow	01	10	cloudy
New York	01	10	cloudy
Paris	01	10	cloudy
Rome	01	10	cloudy
Stockholm	01	10	cloudy
Tel Aviv	12	24	clear
Tokyo	01	10	cloudy
Zurich	01	10	cloudy

Alleged drug dealer killed after high speed chase with police

AN Ashkelon man wanted for dealing drugs in the town was killed early Friday morning when his car overturned while he was being chased by police.

A police car noticed a suspicious vehicle, a check of which showed it belonged to Shimon Peretz, 25, the suspected drug dealer. A policeman at a roadblock at the Plugat Junction signaled him to stop, but he continued on. An additional vehicle carrying two of Peretz's friends also fled the scene, but in the opposite direction.

The police summoned reinforcements and arrested the other two men shortly afterward. Peretz engaged the police in a chase on the Ashkelon-Ashdod road.

Peretz managed to elude the police at one point, turned off his lights and swerved to the right near Kibbutz Nitzanin. He then continued driving between the moshavim in the region, but his car flipped over while making a sharp turn at Gan Yavne.

Police continued searching for the vehicle, and set up roadblocks throughout the region. Ten minutes later, Ashdod police got a call from a Gan Yavne resident saying he noticed an injured man in an overturned car at the side of the road. Police arrived at the scene and confirmed it was Peretz.

A Magen David Adom medic called to the scene declared him dead on the scene. A search of the car turned up two bags full of marijuana weighing a total of 40 kg. Police launched an investigation into who supplied the drugs, and believe Peretz was part of a gang that supplied drugs to dealers and users, including pupils aged 14-17.

Scientists locate male gene predisposing prostate cancer

THE location of the first specific gene that predisposes men to develop prostate cancer has been discovered by a team of US and Swedish scientists. The discovery of the gene, named HPC1 (hereditary prostate cancer 1) and located on the Number 1 chromosome, was published in today's issue of the journal *Science*.

The exact site of the gene has not yet been found, but rather its "neighborhood" - via its closeness to a "marker" gene. The work done so far narrows down the location of HPC1 to less than 0.1 percent of the human genome. The work was done by the Brady Urological Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, the US National Center for Human Genome Research, and Umea University in Sweden. Brady Institute director Prof. Patrick Walsh, who took part in the research, was in Israel a few weeks ago to show local urologists how to perform a nerve-sparing operation to reduce the risk of impotency in prostatectomies.

The marker was located in the same way that the breast cancer gene BRCA1, most commonly found in Ashkenazi Jewish women, was identified a few years ago. The location of the "neighborhood" of the gene, which is responsible for five to 10 percent of all prostate cancers, is an important step towards developing a genetic test for men at high risk for the disease. The HPC-1 gene (others will undoubtedly follow) is believed to cause 30 to 40 percent of the hereditary form of the disease. Combined with existing methods of early detection, a genetic test could lower death rates significantly.

To track down the gene, the researchers studied 91 families in which at least three closely related men developed prostate cancer. They then searched their DNA for a region of a particular chromosome that was always inherited by these men; it was linked to a "marker" on chromosome Number 1. "This is a monumental advance," said Walsh, praising the families, their physicians and the scientists who participated in the project. "Narrowing down our search for a gene to just one small area on a particular chromosome brings us much closer to finding the gene itself," said Dr. Henrik Gronberg of Umea University.

Level of water in Kinneret continues to drop

Water management conference to open in Herzliya today

THE water level in Lake Kinneret is continuing to drop at a relatively rapid rate, with no sign of a heavy winter rainfall in sight.

The recent hot, dry spell has speeded up evaporation from the lake, which is now less than 1.40 meters from its minimum mark and nearly 60 centimeters below where it was at this time, last year.

However, Mekorot is continuing to pump from the lake into the National Water Carrier at the rate of one million cubic meters a day - the equivalent of half a centime-

ter of the lake's water level.

Water experts are to meet next month to plan how to manage the nation's water resources in light of the winter forecast.

In the meantime, a three-day international conference on water resource management in shortage situations is to open in Herzliya today.

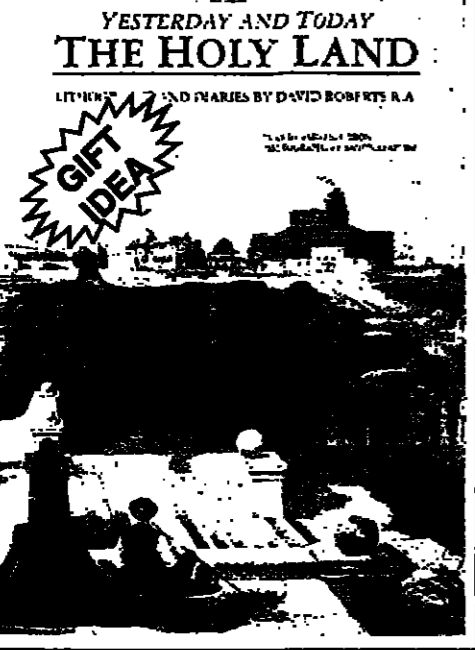
Water ministers and experts from Israel and around the world, including delegations from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan,

Oman and Central Asian states, are slated to participate.

The conference will focus on the Middle East's increasing water shortage and ways of tackling the problem, such as desalination, using purified sewage for irrigation and controlling water quality.

The conference will be followed by visits to Mekorot installations, including the National Water Carrier, which is still considered to be a special project - 32 years after its opening - due to its size and character.

David Roberts-Yesterday and Today



David Roberts' lithographs, based on the sketches executed during his remarkable exploration of the Holy Land in 1839, won him fame that endures today. This volume presents for the first time Roberts' original plates, arranged in chronological order, with commentary and accompanied by splendid color photographs of the same locations as they are today - a stirring voyage of discovery through the experiences and character of an exceptional artist.

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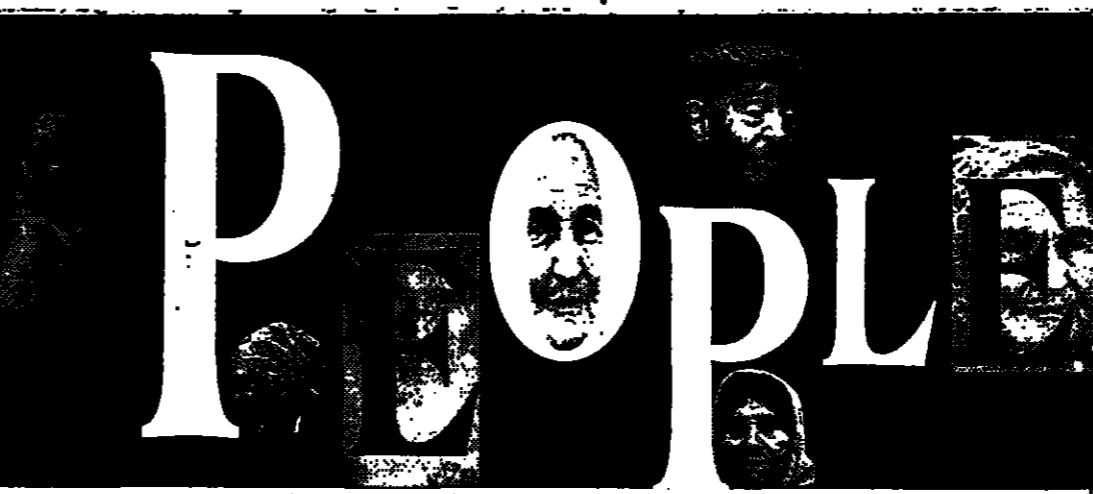
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Director Leonard Schach dies at 78

HELEN KAYE

SOUTH African-born director Leonard Schach died on Wednesday afternoon at a local hospital. He was 78.

Schach's work was meticulous, focused and sensitive. A director's job, he once said, is to clarify the playwright's message and "to put on the play and let the author talk."

"He taught the Israeli theater professionalism, and its actors discipline," Cameri actor Yossi Graber says. "He opened our theater to contemporary American and English drama and was the first to [create] on an empty stage."

Schach introduced Israeli audiences to Arthur Miller and Harold Pinter after helping to found professional theater in his native land, where he was the first director to work with South African playwright Athol Fugard. In South Africa he pushed for desegregation in the arts long before it was fashionable and directed the first anti-apartheid play.

Born and raised in Cape Town, Schach qualified as a lawyer, but never practiced.

He directed some 300 plays, most in South Africa, but also in the US, the UK, Belgium, Italy and here. His first local play was Arthur Miller's *After the Fall* at the Cameri in 1964, the year he immigrated. The following year he did the first multi-racial production of the same play in South Africa.

English-born actress Aviva Marks made her local debut in Schach's production of *Hay Fever* at the Cameri.

"He knew what to do with a play," she says, "but the most captivating thing about him, was the extent of his knowledge, and not just in theater." He was a gifted musician, had an encyclopedic knowledge of opera, and wrote on the subject for various magazines.

He first fell ill in September, a few days before the gala launch of *The Flag Is Flying*, his memoir of South African theater up to just before the end of apartheid. Active, engaged, endlessly fascinated by people and always immersed in theater, Schach was involved to the end.

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